THURSDAY
May 15, 2025

BENGALURU
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RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945

Vol. 56 • No. 115

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna

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ISRAEL'S OFFENSIVE

2 dozen Gaza children among nearly 70 killed

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Kerala, Delhi, T.N. birth rates fall faster than national mean

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'TURNING POINT'

U.S. President meets Syria's interim leader

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STATE OF PLAY

Turbulent but staying afloat

The last two years have been a mixed bag for Congress in Karnataka

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MOVING UP

Malvika advances in Thailand Open

SPORT » PAGE 16

NEARBY

Funding for CSS declining: CM

BENGALURU

The Congress government on Wednesday reviewed the progress of various Centrally sponsored schemes (CSS) and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said the Centre's funding had declined by 40-50%, from the 100-90% range to 50-60%.

» PAGE 4

Salaries of doctors, staff nurses revised

BENGALURU

The Health Department has now made an upward revision in the salaries of doctors and staff nurses, who will be newly recruited under the National Health Mission. » PAGE 4

BSF constable detained by Pakistan Rangers released

Purnam Kumar Shaw was held a day after Pahalgam attack when he 'inadvertently crossed over' while on duty in Punjab, says BSF; India sends back Pakistan Rangers member held along border

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

A Border Security Force (BSF) constable who was detained by the Pakistan Rangers on April 23, a day after the Pahalgam terror attack, as he inadvertently crossed over the International Boundary in Punjab was returned to India on Wednesday.

A member of the Pakistan Rangers who was detained in India along the border in Rajasthan on May 3 was also returned to Pakistan on Wednesday, a senior government official said.

The BSF said that "repatriation" of constable Purnam Kumar Shaw became possible due to the "consistent efforts of BSF through regular flag meetings with Pakistan Rangers and through other communication channels."

Back home: Purnam Kumar Shaw (centre) with BSF personnel at Wagah after being handed over by Pakistan on Wednesday. PTI

The return of the jawan comes days after India and Pakistan agreed to cessation of military operations on May 10. The constable was detained while he was accompanying farmers, who are allowed to cultivate land up to the International Boundary, beyond the fence in Ferozepur sector.

The BSF said that Mr. Shaw was "taken back from Pakistan" at 10.30 a.m. on Wednesday on the Attari-Wagah border in Punjab. "He had inadvertently crossed over to Pakistan territory, while on operational duty in area of Ferozepur sector on April 23 and detained by Pakistan Rangers," the BSF said. Mr. Shaw had strayed barely 4-5 metres into Pakistan when he was apprehended.

A BSF official said that Mr. Shaw will have to undergo "debriefing" before he could meet his family or join the duty. "This is the protocol, as he has been in Pakistani custody, he will be interviewed at length by senior officials. There is a procedure in place and we will follow that," said the BSF official.

FAMILY RELIEVED
» PAGE 11
RELATED REPORTS ON
» PAGES 10 & 11

Social media handles of Turkiye, China outlets barred

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

The Centre on Wednesday briefly blocked the social media handles of Turkiye's state broadcaster TRT and *Global Times* run by the Chinese Communist Party to prevent the spread of "fake news", official sources told *The Hindu*, but they were accessible to readers later in the day.

China's state-run Xinhua news agency was also blocked and remained inaccessible on social media platforms thereafter. "It is understood that they (news outlets) have to be impartial... but if they merely provide the Pakistani side and neglect India's view on Pakistan-based terrorism, then we will take action. It is a message to these organisations," a senior official said.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

India 'pushing back' Bangladeshis held without documents

Suspected Bangladeshi migrants without documents who were detained by the Gujarat Police in Ahmedabad on April 26. AFP

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

India has been "pushing back" undocumented Bangladeshi migrants detained across the country through the eastern border over the past month, government officials told *The Hindu*.

In one instance, on May 4, two Air India planes transported 300 such migrants, including 200 women and children, who were earlier held in Gujarat, to Agartala in Tripura. They were subsequently sent to Bangladesh via the land border.

On April 26, the Gujarat Police had detained over 1,000 suspected Bangladeshi nationals .

The Foreign Ministry of Bangladesh had, in a letter, "urged New Delhi to adhere to established repatriation mechanisms," according to the *Daily Star*, a Bangladesh daily.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

Basket of berries

Yield aplenty: A farmer carries a basket of strawberries from a field on the outskirts of Srinagar on Wednesday. IMRAN NISSAR

Justice B.R. Gavai takes over as 52nd CJI

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai was sworn in by President Droupadi Murmu as the 52nd Chief Justice of India at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on Wednesday.

He took his oath of office, pledging his commitment to uphold the Constitution and faithfully discharge duties, in Hindi.

Chief Justice Gavai, who was elevated as a judge of the Supreme Court on May 24, 2019 from the Bombay High Court, has a tenure of over six months till November 23 that may see important hearings in the challenges to the Places of Worship Act and the Waqf (Amendment) Act of 2025.

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 10

Girl found murdered; villagers allege rape

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 15-year-old differently-abled girl, belonging to the nomadic Hakki Pikki community, was found dead with grievous injuries near a railway track on the outskirts of Bidadi, near Bhadrapura Hakki-Pikki Colony in Ramanagara district, on Monday.

The victim was speech and hearing impaired. She was raised by a single mother and her three siblings are also differently-abled.

The girl was a class 8 student at a residential school and had come home in view of the holidays. She along with other children attended a birthday programme in a neighbouring house and then she went missing.

When the girl did not return home, her family and neighbours launched a search for her before filing a missing person complaint with the police.

Later, a few villagers found a body with multiple injuries.

The Bidadi police rushed to the spot and shifted it for post-mortem before taking up a case of murder.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 3

GBG Act to govern city from today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Urban Development Department (UDD) has notified that the Greater Bengaluru Governance (GBG) Act, 2024, will come into effect on Thursday.

However, little will change immediately on the ground, and the transition will be gradual, through successive Government Orders, sources in the UDD said. All functionaries will continue to have the same powers and functions as conferred under the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Act, 2020, until the new law is brought into effect fully, a statement from UDD said on Wednesday.

Until the boundaries of multiple corporations, said to be three, are drawn up and notified by the State government, the BBMP will continue to work under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), which is expected to be constituted soon. The Act allows for a single corporation as well.

The new law provides for multiple corporations (one to seven, each with up to 150 wards) and a pan-city level GBA led by the Chief Minister to coordinate between multiple corporations and all the parastatals in the city.

"As an immediate step, the State government has to now constitute the GBA under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister and appoint an Administrator to the authority, who will have to oversee the transition," a senior official said. As per the sources, the Additional Chief Secretary, UDD, is likely to be appointed Administrator of the GBA.

While the Joint Legislature Committee and the Brand Bengaluru Committee had recommended expanding the footprint of the GBA to include around 25 urbanised villages beyond the existing civic limits, initially, the GBA will come into force with the same existing civic limits of 709 sq. km, the UDD said in the statement.

This will be the first time that the various parastatals in the city, like Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC), Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (BMRCL), Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom), Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Ltd. (BSWML), Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Ltd. (B-SMILE) and even Bengaluru City Police, among others, will come on one single platform with the civic administration in the GBA. This is expected to provide holistic planning and a coordinated approach to the city administration.

However, there are legal steps to be taken to amend the memorandum of associations of the companies and the laws governing some of these parastatals like the BDA and the BWSSB to specify that they will henceforth be answerable to the GBA. Without these amendments, the GBA will also be toothless, sources said.

Kohli — an epitome of excellence who revolutionised India's approach to the five-day game

The prolific, committed, and disciplined willow-wielder spoke vocally, volubly and regularly about the primacy of Test cricket and advocated its cause fiercely, always backing up his words with deeds, inspiring an entire generation to look and think beyond the tug of the 20-over format and invest in the longer version

GETTY IMAGES

R. Kaushik

To eulogise V. Anand as inarguably the mastermind of the greatest sporting revolution in a single discipline in India is far from hyperbole. Anand became India's first chess Grandmaster in 1988 when still in his teens and went on to be crowned World Champion a whopping five times. Even when chess literature in India was basic and modest, he stood out as an inspiration, a role model who compelled millions to embrace what was at the time an unfashionable sporting endeavour.

Last May, P. Shyaam Nikhil became the 85th — yes, astonishing as that might sound — Grandmaster from India. Some seven months later, D Gukesh, an 18-year-old who like Anand is also from Chennai, followed his idol into the history books by becoming India's second World chess champ. He is the youngest, by a distance, to wear that crown following his conquest of China's Ding Liren in Singapore in December. The Anand Effect? Without a doubt.

The Anand blueprint, assiduously and unquestioningly followed by hordes of ambitious, highly skilled and supremely gifted youngsters, is impossible to match, let alone surpass. He was the first to go where no Indian had gone, had even dared to dream to go, before him.

The Gavaskar era

Virat Kohli, by contrast, had numerous stellar performers to look up to. Indian cricket, and batting specifically, is liberally dotted with numerous special champions, and while opinion will be divided, it can broadly be classed as BG and AG - Before Gavaskar and After Gavaskar.

Sunil Gavaskar was the first superstar batter to emerge from our shores. True, there were several wonderful individuals who sparkled on the global stage, from the three Vs — Vijay Merchant, Vijay Hazare and Vijay Manjrekar — down to G.R. Vishwanath who made his international debut a year and a half before Gavaskar. But it was no coincidence that India's standing as a Test entity began to rise in direct proportion to the Mumbaikar's exploits with the willow, starting with his record 774 runs (in four matches) in his first Test series, in the Caribbean in 1971.

Gavaskar was the first to several milestones — the first to get past Sir Don Bradman's 29 Test hundreds that had stood the test of more than three decades, the first ever to scale Mt. 10K, the 10,000-run mark in the red-ball format which was the toast of the cricket world in that era. Even DG — During Gavaskar — when he had, at various stages, such illustrious names as 'Vishy', Mohinder Amarnath, Dilip Vengsarkar and Mohammad Azharuddin, among others, for company, Gavaskar was the wicket oppositions coveted the most, his was the presence at the crease Indian fans craved the most.

After Gavaskar who? That was the big, doom-laden question that seized Indian cricket fans when he bid adieu to Test cricket in 1987, with 10,122 runs, 34 hundreds and an enviable average of 51.12. Who would carry the team on his shoulders? Who would set a stall as among the premier batter of his (or any) generation worldwide? Who?

Sachin Tendulkar, as it turned out. Two and a half years after Gavaskar's retirement, his fellow Mumbaikar played the first of his 200 Tests in Pakistan. By the time he called time on his glorious, unparalleled career in November 2013, Tendulkar had scored the most runs (15,921) and hundreds (51) in Test history. He helmed the golden generation of Indian batting, alongside Virender Sehwag and Rahul Dravid and V.V.S. Laxman and, to a lesser extent, Sourav Ganguly.

Inevitably, as Tendulkar followed Ganguly, Dravid and Laxman into retirement, the same questions as in 1987 resurfaced. How would India adjust to the new normal? How could these virtuosos (because that's truly what they were) ever be replaced? Who would be the vanguard of the next Indian batting revolution, assuming there would be one?

Fear not, a brash, tempestuous, mercurial young man from Delhi thundered. Fear not when Virat is here.

The legend of Virat Kohli had taken no more than very basic shape when Tendulkar brought the curtain down on his Test career at the Wankhede. Kohli had showcased his white-ball mastery in different parts of the world and had been a key component, alongside Tendulkar, when India lifted the 2011 World Cup at home.

He had had his moments in Test cricket too, with a maiden hundred in Adelaide in January 2012, followed by a string of meaningful contributions in a 2-0 rout of New Zealand that same August in India's first showdown since Dravid and Laxman retired. But would he step up and spearhead a batting unit now populated by the likes of the elegant Rohit Sharma, the industrious Cheteshwar Pujara, the inconsistent Ajinkya Rahane?

Oh, he sure would. He'd go on to do that and more. He'd set himself up as the benchmark for excellence. For passion and commitment, for discipline and industry, for lack of compromise and for thinking big. For putting victory first, even if the pursuit of victory occasionally came with a heavy price tag (read defeat) attached to it. For revolutionising his country's approach to the five-day game. For speaking vocally, volubly and regularly about the primacy of Test cricket. For advocating its cause fiercely, always backing up his words with deeds, inspiring an entire generation and more to look and think beyond the tug of the 20-over format and invest in the longer version.

To say that Virat Kohli is in a league of his own is anything but an exaggeration.

Scenes one would miss

It's almost unimaginable that Kohli will no longer be seen in the white flannels, that he won't be around to defy gravity, leap towards the skies, raise his bat and kiss the India crest on his helmet on reaching three-figures in Cape Town or Christchurch, Melbourne or Manchester. That he won't celebrate the fall of a wicket, even of a No. 11, with uninhibited gusto. That he won't play conductor to his own personal orchestra with the crowd. That he won't charge towards the stumps looking for a souvenir after a special victory of the kind he himself fashioned numerous times, including but not only as the designated captain. He might do this in One-Day Internationals — the only format in which he is still an 'active' player — but it won't be the same, will it? No Test cricket without Kohli? Unthinkable, considering how much he has glorified the format in the last 14 years.

It's been a couple of days since Kohli's shock (for value, if not timing) retirement from Tests. It's a couple of days before he will be back in action, for Royal Challengers Bengaluru against Kolkata Knight Riders at his beloved M. Chinnaswamy Stadium when IPL 2025 resumes on Saturday (May 17) after a 10-day break.

A Kohli fan has initiated a campaign urging those intending to be at the Chinnaswamy for that outing to turn up in white jerseys as a tribute to the champion who didn't get the on-field sendoff he so richly deserved. How wonderful. What a grand idea. Just imagine what it will be like, more than 30,000 fans watching an IPL game and cheering their hero, most of them dressed in the only colour that was associated with cricket until Kerry Packer and the 1970s.

It won't be out of place for the Board of Control for Cricket in India to retire jersey No. 18, worn so proudly and with such undimmed passion by arguably the greatest all-format batter of his generation. Admittedly, some of the aura faded over the last five years, when Test runs, and centuries, which came with almost monotonous regularity — inasmuch as anything associated with Kohli can be monotonous — became as rare as hen's teeth. But the preceding five years? Boy, were they special?!

Between the end of 2014 and the end of 2019, Kohli made 21 hundreds, almost all of them as captain. He smashed seven double-centuries, including an unparalleled four in as many consecutive series. He entertained and enthralled, the quantum of runs matched by the authority and grace and style that he wore with such lightness.

Win, win, win!

During that period, he lifted India to spectacular heights. He translated his own unflagging commitment to fitness to a national culture. He assembled a crack pace attack that exploded India's oft-mocked standing as lambs abroad. Kohli wasn't content with being competitive overseas; he wanted to win, win well, win handsome, win ugly. Whatever. But win. He shook us out of our consciousness. Tendulkar and Dravid and Laxman were genteel; Kohli was happy to be himself, brash and unapologetic, unconcerned about what the larger world thought of him so long as he did right by his teammates, his colleagues, his sport, his team, his country.

He polarised opinion, and not only abroad, but he never veered from his true character. Till his final day in Test cricket — we didn't know it at the time, in Sydney on January 5, did we? — he wore his heart on his sleeve. He did things he won't be proud of now and even less so whenever he sits back and reflects on his career, including the shoulder-charge of Sam Konstas in whom he perhaps saw a younger, unencumbered version of himself, but he also did so many more things that he and the cricketing ecosystem is prouder of that he will always find himself in the black. Now, how many of us can say that of ourselves?

A string of Kohli's colleagues, at once the present and future of Indian batting, have waxed eloquent about his influence, about how his advocacy of Test cricket has rubbed off on them. Starting in England next month, they will have the chance to pay more than lip-service to their role model.

Nothing will please Kohli more than seeing the Rahuls and the Gills, the Pants and the Jaiswals, reiterate their commitment to the five-day game with a bushel of runs. There simply can't be a greater tribute to one of Test cricket's most iridescent gems.

THE GIST

- Kohli was at the vanguard of the the Indian batting revolution in Tests following the Gavaskar and Tendulkar eras
- Between the end of 2014 and the end of 2019, Kohli made 21 hundreds, including seven double centuries, almost all of them as captain
- Kohli wasn't content with being competitive overseas; he wanted to win, win well, win handsome, win ugly

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ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕು.ಕ. ಸೊಸೈಟಿ

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ.

ಉತ್ತರ–ಕನ್ನಡ, ಕಾರವಾರ – 581301

No.NHM/ECRP-II/44/25-26. DATE: 13-05-2025

ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಉತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ **ECRP-II** ಅನುದಾನದಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಅಗತ್ಯವಿರುವ ಸಾಧನೊಪಕರಣಗಳನ್ನು ಪೂರೈಸಲು ಅರ್ಹ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಂದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಎರಡು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್ ಸಿಸ್ಟಂನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಉಚಿತ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಮೂನೆಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಮತ್ತು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಡಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. **74,20,000/–** ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. **1,48,400/–**

(1) ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **20/05/2025**ರ ಸಂಜೆ: **5.00** ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ. (2) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಹಾಕಲು ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **31–05–2025** ರ ಸಂಜೆ: **5.30** ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ. (3) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **02–06–2025** ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ: **11.00** ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕು.ಕ. ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ
ಉತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡ, ಕಾರವಾರ.

DIPR/KWR/KSMCA/97/25-26 Dt.14.05.2025

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

TENDER NOTIFICATION (KPPP mode only)

KPTCL invites bids for the following:

(1)No:CEE/Tr(O)Z/TKR/SEE/AEE-2/2025-26/1292-93 Date: 13.05.2025

Bid Enquiry No.:KPTCL/CEE/TR(O)Z/TKR/SEE(O)/AEE-2/25-26/0014/Dt:29.04.2025 for **Replacement of age old Bus-2 Pentagraph Isolator of 400KV BTPS line by new Pentagraph isolator (Without earthswitch) & Bus-1 Pentagraph isolator of 400KV Beeranahalli line-1 by new Pentagraph Isolator (with earthswitch) at 400/220KV R/S Guttur on Total Turnkey basis including supply of all matching materials/equipments, including supply, erection, loading & unloading, transportation, testing and commissioning.**

(2) No:CEE/Tr(O)Z/SEE(O)/AE-2/25-26/1294-96 Date: 13.05.2025

Bid Enquiry No.:KPTCL/CEE/Tr(O)Z/SEE(O)/AE-2/2025-26/Service-0018 dt:12.05.2025 for **Providing Manpower Services of 08 No's of Security 220kV Madhure (Hosadurga) and 220kV Benkikere, in Tumakuru (Operation) Zone, KPTCL, Tumakuru on contract basis.** The bids will be received through KPPP mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject enquiry in the KPP Portal & can be obtained by logging into kppp website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** and click on hyperlink "E Procurement KPTCL" **on or after 16.05.2025 (for Sl.No.1) and on or after 19.05.2025 (for Sl.No.2)** Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, Electy.,
Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL,
Parasara Bhavana, 1st Floor, 66/11kV Tumakuru S/S Premises, Tumakuru-03.

MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MINOR IRRIGATION & G.W.D DIVISION, TUMKUR

Ref No.01/2025-26 KW-2,KW-3 &KW-4 (TWO COVER SYSTEM) KPP Portal DT.12.05.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFFICATION Dated 12.05.2025

On behalf of the Hon'ble Governor of State of Karnataka, as per K.T.P.P act with latest amendments, Item wise "KPPP" Portal tenders are invited for the works mentioned under H/A: 4702-SCP, 4711-Pravaha, 4702-MOT Prdhana and Atal Bhujal Yojana works from the elgible contractors of suitable category registered under KPWD. Tender publishing details are as given below.

1. Tender will be published through KPP Portal on: Dated: 13-05-2025 at 16.00 Hours. 2. Last date of queries on Dated: 20-05-2025 at 11.30 Hours. 3. Last date for Receipt of completed tenders through KPP portal may be uploaded before 17.00 Hours on Dated: 21-05-2025. 4. Technical Bid will be opened on Dated: 22-05-2025 at 17.05 Hours. 5. Financial Bid will be opened on Dated: 23-05-2025 at 17.10 Hours. For further details, visit Kpp portal website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ or from the office undersigned, on working days. If the office happens to be closed on dates above as specified, the next working day at the same time and venue will be considered.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
M.I & G.W.D Division, Tumkur

DIPR/TUM/59/KSMCA/2025-26

KARNATAKA STATE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE PROCESSING & EXPORT CORPORATION LIMITED (KAPPEC)

(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)

Regd.Head office: No.17, General K.S.Thimayya Road (Richmond Road), Bengaluru-560 025. Karnataka, India, Tel: 080-22271194/22243082 **E-mail:** kappec1996@gmail.com **website:** www.kappec.karnataka.gov.in

NOTIFICATION

1. Letter of Invitation: Karnataka State Agricultural Produce Processing & Export Corporation Limited (KAPPEC) has been identified as the Cluster Development Agency (CDA) by National Horticulture Board (NHB), Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India for the implementation of Cluster Development Programme (CDP) in Chitradurga. The CDA shall recommend the implementing agency (IA) for the implementation of different verticals of the Chitradurga Cluster for value chain of Pomegranate, namely-(a) Pre-production and production, (b) Post-Harvest Management & Value Addition (c) Logistics, Marketing & Branding.

KAPPEC invites proposals from the eligible implementing agencies to submit their proposal for implementation of Cluster Development Programme for Chitradurga Pomegranate (Cluster) via online portal **(https://www.nhb.gov.in/OnlineApplication/RegistrationForm.aspx).** Interested agencies may obtain further information and the procedure for submiting the "call for proposals" from the website: **www.nhb.gov.in** and **https://www.kappec.karnataka.gov.in** Last date for submission of proposals on **08.07.2025**. KAPPEC reserves the right to cancel the bid at any time or amend/ withdraw any of the terms of conditions contained in the RFP document without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/- Managing Director, KAPPEC

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR, MODEL STUDIES & RESEARCH, BURLA
E-Mail Id.- eehrdb@gmail.com

E-Procurement Notice No.MSR-02/2025-26 Bid Identification No. DD-MSR-01/2025-26
No. 545 Date. 13.05.2025

TENDER CALL NOTICE

Bid in online mode is invited under single cover system from reputed and experienced Service provider agency for engagement of different categories of personnel on outsourcing basis for **"Engagement of Manpower through Service Provider for Model Studies and Research, Burla and office of the Chief Engineer, Designs, Bhubaneswar for the Financial Year 2025-26".** The details of the bidding process are as follows:

Sl.No	Bidding Schedule	Deadline
1	Total No of works	1 (One)no
2	Date and time of availability of bid document in the portal	From 17.05.2025 at 11.00 A.M to 01.06.2025 up to 05.00 P.M
3	Last date/Time for receipt of bids in the portal	01.06.2025 up to 05.00 P.M
4	Date of Opening of Bid	02.06.2025 at 10.00 AM
5	Name and Address of the officer inviting Bid	Office of The Deputy Director, Model Studies & Research, Burla

1. Any addendum/corrigendum/ cancellation/ erratum of tender can also be seen in the said Website.
2. The bid documents containing eligibility criteria, scope of the work, terms and conditions of the tender and draft agreement can be downloaded from the website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**

Sd/- Deputy Director, Model Studies & Research, Burla

A-152 OIPR-32383/11/0004/2526

FOREST, ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Karnataka Government Secretariat, M.S. Building,Bangalore
Ph No.: 080-22032275 / 22032290

No. FEE 38 ENG 2025 **Date:14.05.2025**

INVITATION OF APPLICATIONS/NOMINATIONS FOR THE STATE ENVIRONMENT AWARD 2024-25.

Applications/Nominations are invited for the Karnataka State Environment awards for the year 2024-25. The award will be conferred with cash prize of Rs. one lakh and a citation on individuals and organizations (Public Sectors, NGOs, Companies, Trusts) in recognition of their outstanding contribution made for environment protection and environment management. Last date for receipt of applications / Nominations is **31.05.2025.** Applications can be submitted to The Principal Secretary (Ecology and Environments), **Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment,** Room No. 709, 7th Floor, Multi Storied Building, 4th Stage, Bangalore. Details can be had from Dist. Offices of **all the Deputy Commissioners, Chief Executive Officers, Deputy Conservator of Forest, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board,** No. 49, Parisara Bhavan, Church Street, M.G.Road, Bangalore-560001 & its regional Offices. **The Environmental Management & Policy Research Institute (EMPRI),** 'Hasiru Bhavana', Doresanipalya Forest Campus, Vinayakanagara Circle, J.P. Nagar 5th Phase, Bangalore 560 078, **Member Secretory Karnataka Biodiversity Board,** Ground Floor, Vanavikas, 18th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bangalore-03 and the websites **https://forest.karnataka.gov.in, www.kspcb.gov.in, www.karnataka.gov.in/empri and https://kbbwebportal. karnataka.gov.in**

(S.N: Applications received for Environment Award will not be returned back to the applicants). Duly completed applications must be submitted through ordinary post / registered post / Speed post or courier. Applications brought personally by the applicant or his / her relative or person known to the applicant will not be accepted by the Department.

Sd/-
(B N Praveen),
Under Secretary to Government,
Forest, Ecology and Environment Department.
(Ecology and Environment)

DIPR/CP/JA/655/2025-26

Government of Karnataka

PUBLIC WORKS, PORTS & INLAND WATER TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, CHAMARAJANAGARA DIVISION, CHAMARAJANAGARA

Phone/Fax : 08226-222027 e-mail : eecnr@kpwd.gov.in / pwdeechngr@gmail.com

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through e-Procurement portal only)

(Two Cover System : Section-1-Technical Bid and Section-2-Financial Bid)

Short Term Tender Notification No 03/2025-26 Dated : 12-05-2025 (Call-1&2)

Item rate tenders are invited through e-procurement portal only on behalf of Governor of Karnataka from Eligible registered civil Contractor in KPWD in Standard Bid document **KW-3, KW-4** form The Total no of works is 1, **H/A : 5054-04-337-0-01-160 MDR Renival Works** maximum estimated cost is Rs. 90.00 lakhs, the Total no of works is 1, H/A :- 8443 DC Works maximum estimated cost is Rs, 500.00 lakhs, And The Total no of works is 1, H/A :- 5054-04-337-0-01-154 (Plan) MDR Improvements Works maximum estimated cost is Rs, 500.00 lakhs, Further changes in this Notification will be published in E-Procurement Only. Date of events as follows :

1	Date and Time for downloading the tender document from the e-procurement portal	From 14-05-2025 to 22-05-2025 upto 16.00 Hrs.
2	Pre-Bid Meeting Date	19-05-2025 in Division Office Meeting Hall at 11.00 AM
3	Downloading the tender document from the Last Date and Time	25-05-2025 upto 16.00 Hrs.
4	Date & Time for opening of Technical bid	26-05-2025 after 16.00 Hrs.
5	Date & Time for opening of Financial bid	28-05-2025 after 16.00 Hrs.

More information can be had from the web site : **https ://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** & Any other details required can be obtained from office of the under signed during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PWD Division, Chamarajanagar.

DIPR : CHANAGAR:72:2025-26

THE HINDU GROUP

SPORTSTAR INDIAN POSTER LEAGUE

DAY 55

Play now & start winning!

1. Which 2010 British documentary chronicles the rise and dominance of the West Indies cricket team in the 1970s and 1980s, featuring interviews with former players and officials?
2. In the 1983 World Cup final, Kapil Dev took a memorable running catch to dismiss a key West Indies batter. Who was the bowler at the time?
3. Which legendary West Indies cricketer, known for his aggressive batting style and on-field swagger, has a stadium named after him in Antigua?

*T&C apply.

Scan QR code or visit **newsth.live/SSIPLPA** to take the quiz. Get all three answers right and unlock a legendary Sportstar poster. **Top 3 winners* every day win gift vouchers.**

Yesterday's poster: Thierry Henry

Yesterday's Winners:
1. Nishant Satyam, Patna | 2. Abhijith Ajikumar, Ranni | 3. Abhishek Paul, Dibrugarh

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

M.I & G.W.D. DIVISION, VIJAYAPUR

No.EE/MID/VJP/AE-2/ATAL BHUJAL/TND/2025-26/301 **Date: 13.05.2025**

SHORT TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department, Division Vijaypur invites work tenders from Eligible Contractor through "E-Procurement" on item rate Tender for following works as per KTPP Act-2000 and latest amendments.

Atal Bhujal Yojana Work :- Total 1 Work, Estimated Cost **Rs.121.02 Lakhs**, **Tender Period for the above works are Nine(9) Months including monsoon.**

Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka E-Procurement website https://kppp.karnataka.gov. in/#portal/portal-home under login for Contractors from **15.05.2025.** Tenders may be submitted on electronically in E-Procurement portal up to **17-30 hrs.** on **22.05.2025.** Interested contractors information regarding works may be obtained from this office or e-Procurement helpdesk (Ph.No.080-25501216 & 080-25501227) upto **17-30 hrs.** on **21.05.2025.** Pre-bid meeting will be held on **19.05.2025** for work costing above 1.00Crore in the office of the Executive Engineer, MI&GWDD Division, Vijaypur. Tenders shall be quoted without adding GST and other details can be seen in the tender documents.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
MI & GWDD Division, Vijayapur

ವಾಸಾಸಂ೦ಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/71/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

रजिस्ट्री सं. डी.एल.- 33004/99 REGD. No. D. L.-33004/99

भारत का राजपत्र
The Gazette of India

सी.जी.-डी.एल.-अ.-05052025-262886
CG-DL-E-05052025-262886

असाधारण
EXTRAORDINARY
भाग II—खण्ड 3—उप-खण्ड (ii)
PART II—Section 3—Sub-section (ii)
प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

सं. 1934] नई दिल्ली, बृहस्पतिवार, मई 1, 2025/वैशाख 11, 1947
No. 1934] NEW DELHI, THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2025/VAISAKHA 11, 1947

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
NOTIFICATION
New Delhi, the 1st May, 2025

S.O. 1978(E). In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government, after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which is given in the Schedule below, is required for building (widening/two lane with paved shoulder/four laning etc.,), maintenance, management and operation of NH206 (new NH69) in the stretch of land from Km. 278.00 to Km. 286.40 (Tumkur Honnavara Section) in the district of SHIVAMOGGA in the state of KARNATAKA, hereby declares its intention to acquire such land.

Any person interested in the said land may, within twenty-one days from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, object to the use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-section(1) of section 3C of the said Act.

Every such objection shall be made to the Competent Authority, namely, Assistant Commissioner Sagar Sub Division Sagar in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the Competent Authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by a legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any, as the Competent Authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow the objections.

The land plans and other details of the land to be acquired under their notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid office of the Competent Authority.

SCHEDULE

Brief Description of the land to be acquired with or without structures falling within the stretch of land from Km. 278.00 to Km. 286.40 (Tumkur Honnavara Section) of NH206 (new NH69) in the state of KARNATAKA

State: KARNATAKA			District: SHIVAMOGGA		
Sl. No.	Survey/Plot Number	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Area (in Local Unit)	Area (in Hectares)
1	2	3	4	5	6
Taluk: Sagar					
Village: Kotwalakatte					
1	101-265-265-1363	Private	Dry	4.94 (Square Meter)	0.000494
2	12-346-312	Private	Dry	16.048 (Square Meter)	0.0016048
3	129-162-403	Private	Dry	146.5 (Square Meter)	0.01465
4	176-176	Private	Dry	142.231 (Square Meter)	0.0142231
5	177-177	Private	Dry	68.783 (Square Meter)	0.0068783
6	178-178-179-179	Private	Dry	10.392 (Square Meter)	0.0010392
7	180-180	Private	Dry	8.571 (Square Meter)	0.0008571
8	192-355-325	Private	Dry	20.514 (Square Meter)	0.0020514
9	193-354-324	Private	Dry	23.249 (Square Meter)	0.0023249
10	194-353-323	Private	Dry	25.696 (Square Meter)	0.0025696
11	195-352-322	Private	Dry	13.057 (Square Meter)	0.0013057
12	196-351-321	Private	Dry	12.119 (Square Meter)	0.0012119
13	197-350-320	Private	Dry	36.054 (Square Meter)	0.0036054
14	198-348-318	Private	Dry	36.091 (Square Meter)	0.0036091
15	199-349-319	Private	Dry	60.729 (Square Meter)	0.0060729
16	23-3-157	Private	Dry	47.24 (Square Meter)	0.004724
17	23-359-325	Private	Dry	356.919 (Square Meter)	0.0356919
18	242-271-347/1-317/1	Private	Dry	26.28 (Square Meter)	0.002628
19	264-264-1362	Private	Dry	4.94 (Square Meter)	0.000494
20	361-327	Private	Dry	2.484 (Square Meter)	0.0002484
21	41-45-45	Private	Dry	121 (Square Meter)	0.0121
22	5/3	Private	Dry	50.526 (Square Meter)	0.0050526
23	5/4	Private	Dry	215.484 (Square Meter)	0.0215484
24	5/5	Private	Dry	150 (Square Meter)	0.015
25	54-501	Private	Dry	69.96 (Square Meter)	0.006996
26	76-240-240-1345	Private	Dry	1.87 (Square Meter)	0.000187
27	81-332-300	Private	Dry	164.831 (Square Meter)	0.0164831
28	86-90-86	Private	Dry	5.893 (Square Meter)	0.0005893
29	W17-04-1694	Private	Dry	66.48 (Square Meter)	0.006648
				Total	0.1908881

[F. No. RW/NH/206/KNT/2020/21/921/3A]
SHAIKH AMINKHAN, Director

Rain: 33 stretches flooded again, 40 tree-fall incidents in city

Commuters had a tough time navigating inundated roads; even on Wednesday morning, traffic was hit at many roads

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The spell of heavy rain and gusty winds that hit the city on Tuesday evening and night once again exposed the chinks in the civic infrastructure.

Commuters had a tough time navigating flooded roads, not only on Tuesday evening, but also on Wednesday morning, with office-going traffic out of gear in many stretches. For instance, the railway underbridge at Hoodi, an important link, was flooded on Wednesday as well, said K.R. Puram traffic police on the social media platform X.

In the rains that lashed the city on Wednesday evening, many roads were inundated, traffic was thrown out of gear in several key stretches, and by 10 p.m., the civic body reported eight tree-fall cases, including in areas such as Hebbal, Sanjaynagar, Chikkabanaswadi, Banashankari, and BTM Layout.

A flooded road in the central business district of Bengaluru. K. MURALI KUMAR

Several trees and branches that had fallen on Tuesday had not been cleared, disrupting traffic in many areas.

Significant flooding was observed on the Nagavara-Hebbal flyover stretch on Outer Ring Road, Hebbal-Jakkur stretch, Hunasamaranahalli on Ballari Road, Hoodi railway underpass, Electronics City flyover, among other places.

Slow traffic

"From Mehkri Circle till Jakkur, the road was heavily flooded. As there was water stagnation on the Hebbal flyover, traffic moved at a snail's pace. Many were stuck on the road on two-wheelers. While even in peak traffic hours, it usually takes 15-20 minutes to cross Hebbal, it took over 35 mins on Tuesday night even after 10.30 p.m.," said R. Saroja, a resident of Yelahanka.

For instance, the Veerannapalya stretch between Nagavara and Hebbal, inundation on Hebbal and Electronics City flyovers were an issue that had come to the fore during the 2024 monsoon as well.

A senior traffic official said that they had observed significant waterlogging at 33 locations on Tuesday evening, and had reported the same to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).

"Many of these stretches have been seeing inundation almost with every spell of rain. We have repeatedly flagged these spots to the civic body," he said.

"While clogged drains are a key concern and need regular maintenance, some of these stretches need engineering interventions," said another senior official.

Likewise, despite multiple special drives and calling upon members of the public to report ageing and dangerous trees to be removed and pruned, nearly 40 trees and over 125 branches fell on Tuesday evening alone. Recently, an autorickshaw driver was killed after a tree fell on the vehicle.

"The wind speed in the city on Tuesday was high. More than the rain, trees have fallen due to wind. Not just old and brittle trees, even many healthy green trees have fallen," said B.L.G. Swamy, Deputy Conservator of Forests, BBMP.

Tree conservation activist Vijay Nishanth said that most of the tree falls could be attributed to choking of their roots by concrete.

BEML flags off 2,100th metro coach in city, to set up new unit in M.P.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

BEML Ltd. on Tuesday flagged off its 2,100th metro coach from its rail coach manufacturing facility in Bengaluru. The ceremony was attended by Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, who also handed over the official land allotment letter for a new BEML manufacturing unit in Umeria, Raisen district in Madhya Pradesh.

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav and BEML Chariman and Managing Director Shantanu Roy during the flag-off ceremony of the 2,100th BEML-manufactured metro car in Bengaluru on Wednesday. PTI

The new unit will be developed on 60.063 hectares of land allocated by the Madhya Pradesh government. According to a release by BEML, it will manufacture rolling stock and metro coaches for upcoming railway and urban transit projects across India here.

Mr. Yadav said the moment was not only significant for the people of Madhya Pradesh but for the country as a whole, adding that the expansion would provide job opportunities for youth, MSMEs, and local communities.

"This initiative will enhance Madhya Pradesh's industrial ecosystem and contribute to sustainable growth," the M.P. Chief Minister said.

The release stated that the 2,100th coach, built for the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) via the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC), features Grade of Automation 4 (GoA4) standards, enabling fully unattended train operation. It also includes an innovative Onboard Condition Monitoring System a first in India, which allows real-time automatic diagnostics of rail tracks, overhead equipment, and other critical systems.

Officials from the M.P. government, the Madhya Pradesh Industrial Development Corporation (MPIDC), and BEML were present at the event.

Occupancy Certificate mandatory for utility connections

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The city administration has begun implementing a Supreme Court directive from December 2024 which states that "utilities such as electricity, water supply, and sanitation connections are to be provided only to buildings that have obtained an Occupancy Certificate/Completion Certificate (OC/CC) from the respective local authority".

66,400 applications pending

In a statement issued on Wednesday, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) said that it has learnt that presently around 66,400 applications have been pending with Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (BESCOM) seeking new electricity connections in the BBMP area and to ensure that only those with valid documents get the connection, BBMP has announced a campaign to check property documents of these households.

Chief Civic Commissioner M. Maheshwar Rao has urged citizens to cooperate and furnish these documents to the civic body

The civic body said that it will contact those who have applied for an electricity connection with BESCOM and yet to get a connection through SMS and phone calls to check for Khata approval, approval of building plans, among others. and status of the application (submitted/to be submitted) for the Occupancy Certificate/ Completion Certificate.

Chief Civic Commissioner M. Maheshwar Rao has urged citizens to cooperate and furnish these documents to the civic body.

Mr. Rao also appealed to property owners to apply for the Occupancy Certificate through a registered architect/engineer on the below portal: https://bpas.bbmpgov.in/BPAMSClient4/Default.aspx

BTech graduate, 11 associates arrested for online job fraud

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Adugodi police on Tuesday arrested a BTech graduate and 11 of his associates who were allegedly operating a fake job racket that lured youngsters on the pretext of offering online jobs.

The prime accused, Harshavardhan Ojha, 25, from Ballia, UP, a BTech graduate, roped in a labour contractor, Sonu Baiju Lal, 27, from Mumbai, Maharashtra, and 10 of his friends who were unemployed from his hometown to run the racket.

Sonu Baiju Lal was assigned to get the bank accounts of labourers working under him to put the money. The other accused are Akash Kumar Yadav, 23, a BA graduate and his associates, Gorakhnath Yadav, 20, Sanjeeth Kumar Yadav, 25, PU dropout, Akash Kumar Singh, 19, Amit Yadav, 19, Gourav Pratap Singh, 22, Brijesh Singh, 20, Raj Mishra, 21, Tushar Mishra, and Goutam Shailesh, who used to work as tele callers to lure gullible people offering jobs online.

The police have recovered 400 SIM cards, 140 ATM cards, 17 cheque books, 27 mobile phones, and ₹15,000 cash from them. The accused used to call people offering jobs online, and lure them to pay a joining fee and deposit money later to get the profits. Using a similar modus operandi, the accused had cheated a resident of Adugodi, offering a work-from-home project and cheated her of ₹5 lakh .

Based on the complaint, the police tracked down Sonu Baiju in Maharashtra through the money trail and later tracked down Harshavardhan and others in different parts of UP.

The accused were operating the racket for the last 2.5 years, and efforts are on to track down their criminal background through the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal, DCP, south east division, Sarah Fathima, said, adding that the accused may have cheated many people across India.

HR executive held on cheating charge

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Special Inquiry wing officials of the Central Crime Branch on Wednesday arrested a 43-year-old HR executive for allegedly cheating youth by offering them jobs in reputed companies.

The accused, Patnool Khalandar Khan, a resident of JP Nagar, has been arrested based on a complaint filed by one of the victims. The police have recovered ₹1.5 lakh from him and a probe is on to recover the rest of the money.

According to the police, the accused had come to the city last year in search of a job and joined a private company as an HR consultant. The accused had allegedly cheated as many as eight people and taken ₹14.2 lakh in the last few months.

Bescom to set up digital portal for consumer grievance redressal

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) will shortly launch a digital portal for consumer grievance redressal management.

This was revealed by Bescom Managing Director N. Sivashankar at a workshop organised jointly by the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) and Bescom for the office-bearers and members of the Consumer Grievance Redressal Forum (CGRF) on May 13 in the city.

"To strengthen consumer rights and improve accountability, a dedicated digital platform is being developed for managing consumer complaints. The Chief General Manager of Corporate Affairs has been entrusted with overseeing the grievance redressal process," he said.

District level CGRF

Upon the directions of the chairman of KERC, Bescom has constituted CGRFs at the district level comprising a Superintendent Engineer, Executive Engineer, and independent members.

"Grievances must be addressed within stipulated timelines. If issues remain unresolved at the CGRF or corporate level, consumers can escalate their complaints to the KERC for further redressal," Mr. Sivashankar added.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is issued on behalf of my client **SRI KEMPAIAH.V.K** to bring to the notice of the general public that the Original Sale deed dt. 03.05.2019 Doc. No.680/2019-20 of Book I, and CD.No.KEND789 and registered in the office of the Sub-Registrar Kengeri Bangalore in respect of Site No.14, carved out of Sy.No.38/4, situated at **Hemmigepura Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore,** converted for residential purpose vide No.ALN(S)SR(KEN) 1/2010-11, dt.17.08.2010 issued by Deputy Commissioner Bangalore, measuring East to West **40 feet** and North to South **30.6 feet**, total measuring **1220 Sq.ft.**, has been lost at the time of travelling.

All the persons are hereby informed not to deal or carry out any transaction with anyone on the basis of the said Sale deed. If anyone has already carried out or being carried out kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address **within 7 days** from this present along with that Police Complaint is also given vide Lost Report **No.1607266/2025, dated 14.05.2025.**

Y. Sowmya Yadav, Advocate
Samvruddhi Legal, # 83, Ground Floor, 5th 'A' Cross, 21st Main, J.P. Nagar 2nd Phase, Bangalore-78. **M : 9916343921**

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, NAGARAJA, R/a #11, Veetharaga Nilaya, 4th Cross Road, 1st Stage, Veerabadra Nagar, Near Basava Nagar Bus Stop, Basavanagar, Marathahalli Post, Bengaluru-560037 have changed my name to Nagaraja S B vide affidavit dt: 14.05.2025 sworn before Notary S.I.Balaguru, B'lore.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client **Mrs. Sumitra Jain** is intending to purchase the schedule property from its owner **Mr. Rakesh Chand S/o S. Mangilal** for a valid sale consideration. If any persons having any claims, right, interest, whatsoever over the schedule property may forward their objects to under mentioned address in writing, within 10 days from the date of this notice, failing which it will be deemed that there are no claims, right, title or interest by anybody and my client will proceed with the completion of sale transaction and will get register the absolute sale deed of the schedule property in his name.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property site bearing No. 8, Old Khata No, 179 , B.B.M.P present khata no 27 / 8 / 179, Situated at: Halagevaderahalli Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, the property comes under the limits of Bruhath Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Rajarajeshwari Nagara, Sub-Zone, Bangalore,

measuring :- East to West : 50 Sq.Sq.ft, and North to South : 80 Sq.ft, Totally Measuring : 4000 Sq.ft,

Together with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and bounded on:

East by : Private Property, West by : Site No.9, North by : Site No. 7, South by : Road.

ASHOK BABU C, Advocate, No 76/1, Ground Floor, Mission Road, Bangalore - 560029. Mobile: 9731832328/8884401140

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client **Sri. Goutamchand Jain** is intending to purchase the schedule property from its owner **Mrs. Sunitha Rakesh W/o Rakesh Chand** for a valid sale consideration. If any persons having any claims, right, interest, whatsoever over the schedule property may forward their objects to under mentioned address in writing, within 10 days from the date of this notice, failing which it will be deemed that there are no claims, right, title or interest by anybody and my client will proceed with the completion of sale transaction and will get register the absolute sale deed of the schedule property in his name.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property site bearing No. 7, Old Khata No, 179 , B.B.M.P present khata no 28 / 7 / 179, Situated at: Halagevaderahalli Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, the property comes under the limits of Bruhath Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Rajarajeshwari Nagara, Sub-Zone, Bangalore,

measuring :- East to West : 50 Sq.Sq.ft, and North to South : 80 Sq.ft, Totally Measuring : 4000 Sq.ft,

Together with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and bounded on:

East by : Private Property, West by : Site No.6, North by : Road, South by : Site No.8.

ASHOK BABU C, Advocate, No 76/1, Ground Floor, Mission Road, Bangalore - 560029. Mobile: 9731832328/8884401140

OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER -I/II
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-2
4th Floor, Telephone House Builiding Rajbhavan Road Bangalore - 560001

NOTICE TO LEGAL REPRESENTATIVES OF DEFENDANT NO.1 LATE SRI K. MUDLAPPA
RC No. 1772/2018 O.A. No. 84/2018

Between : Kaveri Gramin Bank (Now Karnataka Gramin Bank), B.S. Gate Branch, Tumkur District.
Versus
Sri K. Mudlappa & others
Legal Heirs of K. Mudlappa (CD-1)
1. **Smt. Rathnamma,** W/o. Late K. Mudlappa, Malanahalli Village, Dodda Agrahara Post, Sira Taluk, Tumkur District.
2. **Sri Govindaraju,** S/o. K. Mudlappa, Malanahalli Village, Dodda Agrahara Post, Sira Taluk, Tumkur District.
3. **Smt. Pavithra** D/o. Late K. Mudlappa, Malanahalli Village, Dodda Agrahara Post, Sira Taluk, Tumkur District.

Whereas Recovery Certificate No. 1772/2018 in OA No. 84/2018, has been forwarded by Hon'ble Presiding Officer, Debts Recovery Tribunal, Bangalore to the undersigned for the recovery of debt amounting to **Rs.14,81,655/-** (Rupees Fourteen lakhs Eighty One Thousand Six hundred and Fifty Five Only) (interest thereon from 24.10.20) and the Presiding Officer had sent to the undersigned the certified copy of Recovery Certificate under Section 19(22) of RDB Act 1993, sepcifying that the above mentioned amount is to be recoverd along with future interest and cost from the Defendants/ CDs and whereas the said Sri K. Mudalappa (D-1) has expired.

You are hereby given notice that steps will be taken under all or any of the provisions of **Sec.25 of RDB Act 1993 read with II Schedule of the Income Tax Act 1961** to recover the above said amount from you together with future interest payable and the costs charges and expenses incurred in respect of warrants and other processes issued and all other proceedings taken for realizing the specified amount, unless the present amount of **Rs.25,71,484/-** (Rupees Twenty Five Lakhs Seventy One Thousand Four Hundred Eighty Four Only) as on 31.10.2022 with future interest, costs and expenses incurred so far and the aforesaid is payable by you within 15 days from the date of service of this notice.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on 14.02.2023
Sd/- Recovery Officer-1
DRT-2, Bangalore

NB: Attention is invited to Rule 16 of the II Schedule to the Income Tax Act 1961 read with RDDBFI Act 1993 which is reproduced below:
"**Rule 16** (1) Where a notice has been served on a defaulter under Rule 2, the defaulter or his representatives or his representative in interest shall not be competent to mortgage, charge, lease or otherwise deal with any property belonging to him except with the permission of the Debts Recovery Officer, not shall any Civil Court issue any process against such property in execution of a decree for the payment of money. (2) Where an attachment has been made under this Schedule any private transfer or delivery of the property attached or of any interest therein and any payment to the defaulter of any debt, dividend or other moneys contrary to such attachment, shall be void, as against all claims enforceable under the attachment".

यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Union Bank of India
भारत सरकार का उपक्रम A Government of India Undertaking

JAYANAGAR MAIN BRANCH
#429/31, Ramakrishna Building,30th Cross, 4th Block, Jayanagar Bangalore-560011.

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

Sub: Notice of 15 days for sale of immovable secured assets under Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/ charged to the Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised officer of **Union Bank of India** (secured Creditor) will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is basis"** on the date mentioned below, for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to Union bank of India from the below mentioned Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit are also mentioned hereunder.

1. Name and address of the Borrower, Co-Applicant and Guarantor: (1) Ms. G K Shobha W/o K N Udaykumar, No.439, IV Main, Shashtri Nagar, Bangalore-560028. **(2) Mr. K N Udayakumar** S/o K S Nagaraja Rao, No.53B, DDA Flats, Dilshad Gardens, New Delhi-110095. **Also At:** K N Udayakumar S/o K S Nagaraja Rao Manager, CADDS, Bharat Electronics Ltd., Maharajpur, Ghaziabad (U.P.)-201010.

Amount due: Rs. 5,67,886/- (Rupees Five Lakhs Sixty Eight Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighty Six Only) as on **10.02.2025** plus subsequent interest and charges.

Description of immovable secured assets to be Sold: All that Residential flat bearing No. P 211, in level Two (First floor) in Block 'P' of 'Ittina Mahaveer' built in Sy No.156/2 and 101 situated in Doddatoguru village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore, Bangalore South Taluk (Now Bangalore East taluk) and measuring 589 Sq ft of super built up area inclusive of proportionate share in common areas, passages, lobbies, staircase and other areas of common use together with 176 Sq ft undivided share, right, title, interest and ownership in the land referred above and bounded by: East: Remaining portion of Sy No.101, West: Property in Sy No.102, Nort: Road and remaining portion of Sy No.156, South: Boundary of Anekal Taluk. The Boundaries of the Flat No.P 211 is: East: Corridor; West: Open Space; North: Flat No.210; South: Flat No.212.

Reserve Price : Rs.26,34,000/-
(Rupees Twenty Six Lakhs Thirty Four Thousand Only)
Earnest Money to be Deposited: Rs.2,63,400/-
(Rupees Two Lakh Sixty Four Thousand Four Hundred Only)

Date and time of E-Auction: 30.05.2025, Friday from 12:00 Noon to 05:00 pm. (with 10 min unlimited auto extensions)
Last date for submission of EMD: before End Time of Auction
E-auction website: https://baanknet.com

For Detailed terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the link provided in **https://baanknet.com**
The online E-auction will be held through website: **https://baanknet.com**
For auction related queries e-mail to **support.BAANKNET@psballiance.com** & **8291220220** or **ubin0537942@unionbankofindia.bank** & contact at Ph No. **9372137940.**

Date: 14.05.2025
Place: Bangalore
Sd/- Authorised Officer
Union Bank of India.

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
(A Government Of India Undertaking)
Head Office: Bangalore

ARM-1 Branch,
2nd Floor, No.86, Spencer Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore-560001. Ph: 080 25310066
E-mail: cb2366@canarabank.com

SALE NOTICE

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 READ WITH PROVISO TO RULE 8 (6) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru of the Canara Bank, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is"** on **03.06.2025(10.30 AM to 11.00 AM),** for recovery of **Rs.6,25,29,039.95** as on **11.05.2025** with further interest and cost thereon due to the ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru of Canara Bank from **(1) M/S Sri Udupi Park,** Sy No.87, Alok Plaza, Sadarmangala Industrial area opposite ITPL, Whitefield Road Bangalore-560017, **(2) Mr. Keradi Chandrasekhar Shetty,** No.26, 4th Floor, Shree Enclave, N R Colony, Murugeshpalya, Bangalore-560017. **(3) Mr. Sathish Shetty,** No.209, C Wing, 2nd Floor, Trifecta Starlight Apartment, Mahadevapura, Bangalore-560048, **(4) Mr. Ravindra Sheena Mogaveera,** No.1409, C Wing, 4th Floor, Trifecta Starlight Apartment, Mahadevapura, Bangalore-560048, **(5) Mrs. Nagarathna.G,** No.18/2, 10th cross, Near Shanimahatma Temple, HAL 3rd Stage, Kodihalli, Bangalore- 560008.

The Earnest Money shall be Deposited by way of **E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/)** portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through **RTGS/NEFT** in the account details as mentioned in the said challan on or before **02.06.2025 5.00pm**

(Rs. in lakhs)

Lot No	Description of the immovable/movable assets:	Reserve Price	EMD Amount	Incremental value at Bid
1	All that piece of residential plot situated at No.95, PID no. 74-58-95 (Earlier bearing HASB Khata no. 207/B) in Sy no. 18/2 situated at Kodihalli Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore measuring 2090 sq.ft. and bounded: East- Private Property, West- Private Property, North- Private property, South- Road. **Coordinates of the property : Latitude- 12.57525N, Longitude- 77.38560E**	₹. 159.32	₹.15.93	1.00
2	Machineries and Equipment's Owner of Sri Alok Park, Whitefield Road, Bangalore. **Coordinates of the property : Latitude- 12.9880029, Longitude- 77.733985**	₹. 41.49	₹.4.14	1.00

Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com) or E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/) portal and may contact ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru, Canara Bank, Ph. No.08025310066, 6381952519, 9966397756, 8098415841and 9039609346 during office hours on any working day.

Date : 14.05.2025
Place: Bangalore
Sd/- Authorised Officer
Canara Bank

Liquid gallium being poured out of a container. A team of scientists from institutes in Beijing and Dongguan in China have finally reported a way to produce 2D sheets of gallium. ANDREWDAGAMER (CC BY-SA)

Scientists make unique 2D metals much sought after for future tech

The unique material properties resulting from quantum confinement have great real-world applications; this has driven scientists to pursue creation of 2D metals, inspired by materials like graphene and quantum dots; but they've encountered a challenge: the behaviour of metal atoms themselves

Vasudevan Mukunth

A quantum dot is a type of semiconductor that's only a few nanometres wide. It has a wide range of applications, including in LED lighting, medical diagnostics, printing, semiconductor fabrication, and solar panels. They're very small, but they've had a big impact on our world as we know it. This is why the people who found a quick, reliable way to make quantum dots were awarded the Nobel Prize for chemistry in 2023.

Quantum dots get their curious but powerful abilities from a phenomenon called quantum confinement. When you throw a switch, a bulb comes on. This is because electrons flow from a power source to the bulb through copper wires. Because the wires are fairly thick (from an electron's perspective) and very long, the electrons aren't tightly packed in and move freely. But in a quantum dot, there isn't much space, and the electrons are relatively closer to each other. So even though they're free to move around the entire quantum dot, and not be confined to their atoms, their movement is still restricted.

In this situation, the amount of energy each electron can have changes. In a copper wire in your house's circuit, if an electron gains some extra energy in some way, it can simply move around faster. But in a quantum dot there's nowhere to go, so the electrons can't simply acquire more energy even if, say, you increase the voltage on the dot. Instead, the electrons can have only specific amounts of energy each. This is exactly how electrons in an atom behave: they have limited energy levels. It's like they're in a movie hall. The copper-wire electrons are free to fill any seats they like. But in an atom, some rows are closed off, and in the other rows, only specific seats are available. Because all the electrons in a quantum dot behave in this way, the dot itself behaves like a giant atom.

The materials not in 3D

The restrictions the electrons feel because they're so packed in are said to be due to quantum confinement. A material is described as 1D or 2D depending on how much it confines its electrons. A quantum dot is considered to be a zero-dimensional material: while its electrons can technically move in three dimensions, the volume available is so small that it might as well be a point in space.

Likewise, graphene is a famous 2D material: it consists of a single sheet of carbon atoms bonded to each other in a hexagonal pattern. The electrons in this sheet can only move around in two dimensions, thus 2D. As a result, they behave as if they don't have mass, for example, giving rise to properties not seen in other materials.

The unusual material properties quantum confinement gives rise to are clearly of great real-world value. This is why scientists have also been trying to create 2D metals – but they've been running into a thorny problem.

If one graphene sheet is placed above another, the two sheets will develop weak links between them called a van der Waals interaction. They're very weak bonds: they can keep the sheets from drifting apart, but if you tug even one sheet just a little, the interaction will break and allow the sheets to be separated.

The scientists who discovered graphene also found that by attaching some cellophane tape on graphite, then pulling it in one smooth motion, they could get a few layers of graphene to come off with the tape.

Really, really flat metals

This wouldn't have been possible if carbon had been a metal. The problem with a metal atom is that it likes to bond with all the same atoms around itself. Put differently, the atom readily forms bonds in 3D. Forcing it to form bonds only in 2D is very difficult. This is why materials scientists have been trying for a decade to create 2D metals using different techniques, to no avail. They've tried carefully depositing metal atoms on a substrate, and sandwiching metal slices between a 2D material and a substrate, even hammering metal pieces down.

They've only been able to manage metal sheets a few nanometres thick. This isn't good enough: atomically thin sheets are 10-times thinner, at best a few angstroms (Å) deep. Scientists have also found the surface of these materials to be uneven and that often the metal atoms interact with oxygen in the atmosphere to form oxide compounds.

Yet they've been motivated to keep going because 2D metals are expected to have highly unique properties that can be exploited for next-generation technologies, including super-sensitive sensors with applications ranging from medicine to the military. 2D bismuth and tin, in particular, are expected to be exotic materials called topological insulators, conducting electric currents only along their edges, not anywhere else. In such a state, the material can become magnetised in small islands – a phenomenon physicists have said can be exploited to make faster computers of the future.

A high-pressure sandwich

Now, if a study published recently in *Nature* is to be believed, there may finally be light at the end of the 2D tunnel. A team of scientists from the Beijing National Laboratory for Condensed Matter Physics and Institute of Physics, the University of Chinese Academy of Sciences (both in Beijing), and Songshan Lake Materials Laboratory (Dongguan) has reported a way to produce 2D sheets of bismuth, gallium, indium, tin, and lead. The team's technique isn't complicated either – although that's partly because the necessary technologies have taken a long time to get to their current advanced state.

2D metals are expected to have unique properties that can be used for super-sensitive sensors with applications ranging from medicine to the military. 2D bismuth and tin are expected to be exotic materials called topological insulators

It goes roughly like this: (i) Create a pure powder of a metal, say bismuth. (ii) Lay it on a plate made of sapphire on top of which a single layer of molybdenum disulphide (MoS_2) has been deposited. This is the bottom anvil. (iii) As the bottom anvil is heated, the metal powder on top of it will melt and spread out. (iv) The droplet is overlaid with the top anvil, which also consists of a single MoS_2 layer pasted on a sapphire substrate. At this point the droplet is sandwiched between two layers of MoS_2, which in turn are sandwiched between two layers of sapphire. (v) The top anvil is twisted by a small angle and then the two anvils are pressed together. The pressure is kept up until the anvils have cooled to room temperature, then removed. (vi) The smooshed sheet of metal is peeled off.

According to the team, the bismuth sheet was just 6.3 Å thick – a depth of roughly two atoms and sufficient for electrons in the metal to be confined in 2D.

The use of MoS_2 and sapphire wasn't accidental. MoS_2 has a Young's modulus – the amount of force required to deform it – of 430 billion pascal (Pa), and sapphire, has one of 300 billion Pa.

That's more than a million times the atmospheric pressure at sea level. The squeeze the scientists applied to make 2D bismuth was 'just' 200 million Pa. Both MoS_2 and sapphire also have smooth surfaces, which means their atoms don't try to bond with the bismuth atoms near them.

The researchers also found the bismuth sheet thus produced exhibits a strong field effect and a nonlinear Hall effect. A field effect means how well the sheet conducts electricity can be changed by applying an external electric field. The nonlinear Hall effect was more peculiar: when an electric field was applied, the bismuth sheet acquired a voltage in the perpendicular direction. Both the strong field effect and the nonlinear Hall effect occur in 2D metals, not in 3D metals.

To change the world

The new effort is "not the first to grow thin crystals between layers of van der Waals materials. In the past year, there have been reports of single-atom-thick graphene nano-ribbons grown between layers of hexagonal boron nitride, and of gold nanocrystals just a few nanometres thick grown between flakes of MoS_2," University of California, Irvine, condensed-matter physics researcher Javier Sanchez-Yamagishi wrote in a commentary accompanying the paper. "My own group has also produced ultra-thin crystals of bismuth by squeezing the metal between layers of hexagonal boron nitride, although the minimum thickness of our crystals was 5 nanometres."

"A key difference between our method and that of Zhao and colleagues is that they used large (centimetre-scale) sapphires covered with MoS_2, which might be crucial for making atomically thin metals," he added.

Sanchez-Yamagishi also wrote that the new technique represents a "substantial improvement over what can be made using more expensive and complex techniques." Since it's a first attempt, more opportunities as well as new challenges await. For example, researchers can look for ways to use the technique to make 2D sheets composed of multiple metal species, not just one.

For another, the geometric arrangement of bismuth atoms in the 2D sheet the team made allows it to become a topological insulator only in particular conditions. Future research can improve the technique to make room-temperature topological insulators in a more reliable way – just the way the 2023 chemistry Nobel Prize laureates changed the world when they discovered a simple, reliable way to make quantum dots. Yet another opportunity is to refit the procedure to make 2D metals of larger area.

Ultimately, scientists stand to learn more about 2D metals themselves, especially hitherto unknown properties. "Even less is known about the electronic properties of the other 2D metals prepared in the study," Sanchez-Yamagishi wrote. "The stability and large sizes of these materials open up many possibilities for integrating them with other materials and for making new electrical or photonic devices."

(mukunth.v@thehindu.co.in)

A representative image of droplet of solidified molten tin. 2D tin is expected to be an exotic material called a topological insulator, which conducts electric currents only along its edges, not anywhere else. JURII/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Mariangela Hungria. WORLD FOOD PRIZE VIA AP

Brazilian wins World Food Prize for raising yield using biological processes

Associated Press

A Brazilian scientist who pushed back against the use of chemical fertilizers and studied biological approaches to more robust food production has been honoured with this year's World Food Prize, the organisation announced on May 13.

Microbiologist Mariangela Hungria has been researching biological seed and soil treatments for 40 years and has worked with Brazilian farmers to implement her findings. Her accomplishment has now won her $500,000 from the Iowa-based World Food Prize Foundation.

"I still cannot believe it. Everybody said, my whole life, it's improbable, you are going the wrong way, just go to things like chemicals and so on. And then, I received the most important prize in the world of agriculture," Ms. Hungria said in an interview.

Norman Borlaug, who received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970 for his work to dramatically increase crop yields and reduce the threat of starvation in many countries, founded the World Food Prize. Since the first prize was handed out in 1987, 55 people have been honoured.

She studied how bacteria interact with roots to produce nitrogen, and worked directly with farmers to convince them that they wouldn't have to sacrifice yields if they switched to a biological process

Ms. Hungria said she grew up wanting to alleviate hunger. Early in her career, she decided to focus on a process called biological nitrogen fixation, in which soil bacteria could be used to promote plant growth. At that time, farmers in Brazil and around the world were reluctant to reduce their use of nitrogen fertilisers, which dramatically increase crop production but lead to greenhouse gas emissions and pollute waterways.

Ms. Hungria studied how bacteria can interact with plant roots to naturally produce nitrogen. She then demonstrated her work on test plots and began working directly with farmers to convince them that they wouldn't have to sacrifice high crop yields if they switched to a biological process.

The work is credited for increasing yields of several crops, including wheat, corn, and beans, but it has been especially effective on soybeans. Brazil has since become the world's largest soybean producer, surpassing the U.S.

Although Ms. Hungria's research could be applied on farms in other countries, soybean production in the U.S. is different than it is in Brazil. American farmers typically rotate crops between growing corn and soybeans. Enough nitrate fertilizer applied to corn still remains in the soil when soybeans are planted, and little or no fertilizer needs to be applied, Hungria said.

Brazilian agricultural companies have faced fierce criticism for clearing forested land to create farmland, largely to grow soybeans. Much of that criticism is justified, Ms. Hungria said, but she added that her approach builds up the soil and makes further encroachment into forested areas less necessary.

"If you manage the crop well, the crop will enrich the soil with nitrogen," she said. Ms. Hungria will be awarded her prize at an annual October gathering in Iowa of agricultural researchers and officials from around the world.

Gebisa Ejeta, chair of the World Food Prize Laureate Selection Committee, credited Ms. Hungria for the transformative effects of her research in South America.

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

THURSDAY
May 15, 2025

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RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945

Vol. 56 • No. 115

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna

Sri SIDDARAMAIAH
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

Sri D.K. SHIVAKUMAR
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister and
Minister for Bengaluru Urban Development
Government of Karnataka

Implementation of Greater Bengaluru Administrative Governance-2024

Date: 15.05.2025, Thursday

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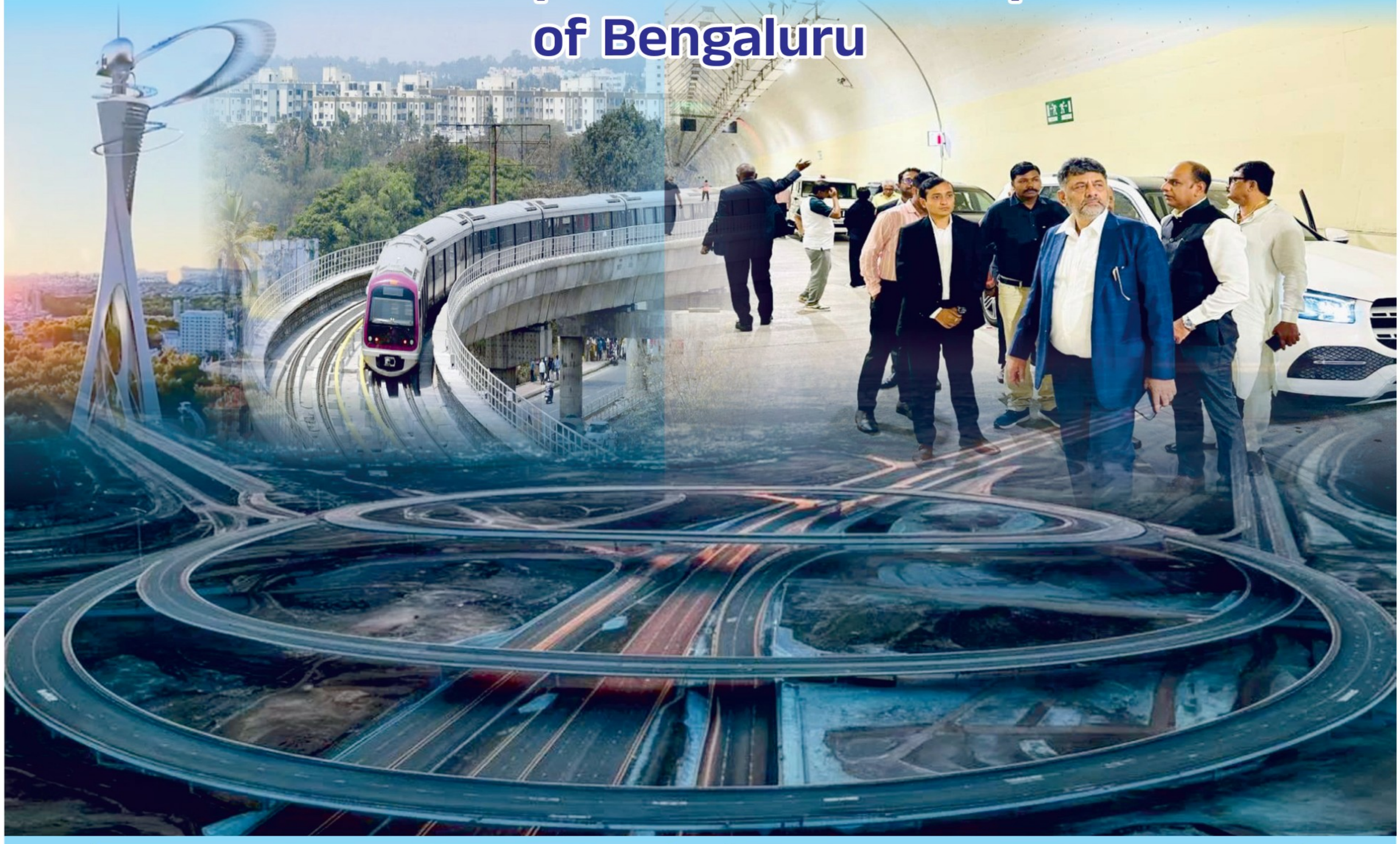
For the Comprehensive Development of Bengaluru



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The Constitutional Fundamental duty of every Indian is to protect public property and renounce violence

Published by: Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike

J BG-BGE

State govt. mulls over freezing enhancement of CSE seats

Higher Education Minister says there is an imbalance between traditional courses and emerging disciplines

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The State government is considering freezing the enhancement of Computer Science Engineering (CSE) seats to prevent the mushrooming of private engineering colleges in tier-1 cities and unemployment in the future.

The Telangana High Court had recently upheld the Telangana government's decision regarding the enhancement of CSE seats, and Higher Education Minister M.C. Sudhakar said that the order is being reviewed.

"Last year, the Telangana government had imposed restrictions on the enhancement of CSE seats in private engineering colleges. This was

M.C. Sudhakar

challenged by some private engineering college managements in the HC there. It is learnt that the court, which upheld the Telangana government's action, has dismissed the petition of the private engineering colleges. In this context, there is a need to freeze the enhancement of CSE seats in Karnataka as well," the Minister told *The Hindu*.

According to the Higher Education Department's notified seat matrix for engineering and architecture courses in the State, there were 1,32,309 seats in 245 engineering colleges for the academic year 2024-25. This included 62,930 seats under the government quota, 28,656 seats under the COMED-K quota, and 5,155 seats under supernumerary quota. Among these, around 45,000 seats belong only to CSE and related courses.

Currently, there is a huge demand for seats in CSE due to job availability, among other reasons. The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) is the authority granting permission to start new engineering colleges, courses, and seat enhancement on the basis of infrastructure.

The council removed the cap on engineering admissions and is allowing the enhancement of engineering seats based on the demand of colleges. Taking this as an excuse, some private engineering colleges in tier-1 cities have increased the number of seats more than the limit fixed by the State government based on the infrastructure, by getting permission from AICTE. Some colleges have 1,500 to 2,000 seats only for CSE courses.This has led to an imbalance between traditional and emerging engineering disciplines, the mushrooming of colleges in tier-1 cities, and the increase in seats for a single course, leading to a lack of jobs related to that course in the future.

Mr. Sudhakar, in October 2023, had written to AICTE expressing concern over its lenient norms, which he argued have led to an over-concentration of engineering colleges in tier-1 cities and a glut of courses in popular subjects like CSE. This, he said, has disrupted the balance in technical education across the State. He also requested the council to mandate a State government No Objection Certificate before approving any applications. However, AICTE reportedly did not respond positively to the Minister's letter.

"There is a high demand for these courses in colleges with good infrastructure. I do not know why the government is pushing to freeze CSE seat enhancement," said the principal of a private engineering college that was started last year.

Founder's Day celebrated

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

RBANM's Educational Charities celebrated Founder's Day on Wednesday on the occasion of the birth anniversary of renowned philanthropist Dharmarathnakara Rai Bahadur Arcot Narrainsawmy Mudaliar.

Arvind Narrain, Secretary of the RBANM, spoke about the relevance of the founder's vision today, saying, "The Founder's notion on wealth was for the benefit of society and the definition of philanthropy is the diffusion of knowledge, precisely what he did with his endeavours."

Gyanamurthy, currently part of Rotary International and an alumnus from 1950, shared an anecdote on how they were taught the meaning of charity in school.

From Page One

15-year-old Hakki Pikki girl found murdered

The Forensic Science Laboratory is analysing samples to determine if the girl was sexually assaulted.

Villagers staged a protest, alleging that the girl had been raped and murdered, and demanded a detailed investigation into the incident.

They pointed out that the area was poorly lit, lacked basic infrastructure, and was frequented by drug users and miscreants.

They demanded justice for the victim, sought improved infrastructure, including street lights, stronger police presence and patrolling the area.

The police, considering the gravity of the crime, have formed a special team to crack the case.

Magadi MLA, H.C. Balakrishna, and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar visited the village, met the grieving family and promised support.

Superintendent of Police, Ramanagara, Srinivasa Gowda, who also visited the spot, said that initial examination showed no external signs of sexual assault. However, the police were awaiting the post-mortem report.

The police have rounded up a few suspects and questioned them.

Mr. Shivakumar visited the family along with district administration officials. Compensation of ₹ 4.12 lakh was paid by the district administration and ₹50,000 was given from the panchayat to the family of the victim.

Terming it as an unfortunate incident, Mr. Shivakumar said strict action would be taken against the accused and they would be tracked down soon.

"The family said that they do not suspect anyone. However, a detailed and impartial investigation will be conducted to ascertain the motive of the crime," he added.

Disruption in power supply

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

There will be a power supply disruption on Thursday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the areas serviced from "66kV Banaswadi to HBR Line and 66kV Banaswadi to ITI line" to carry out 66kV UG Cable terminate work at 66/11kV Banaswadi MUSS, according to a release issued by Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited.

The Hindu EducationPlus Career Counselling in Tumakuru on May 18

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The ongoing 23rd edition of The Hindu EducationPlus Career Counselling that started on April 26, will go on till May 18. The landmark event continues its legacy of guiding students and parents in making well informed academic and career decisions.

Designed as a one-stop platform for academic and career counselling, it brings together well-known educationists, career experts, and top institutions to provide personalised guidance on UPSC exam preparation, NEET, and CET counselling conducted by Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) officials and career opportunities in diverse fields, including arts, science, commerce, law, management, engineering, medicine, CA, cost management, fashion designing, performing arts, animation, journalism, architecture and more.

If the students are either exploring conventional paths or emerging career trends, this forum will offer the clarity, direction, and expert advice they need.

The registration for each event will be held between 8.30 a.m. and 9.30 a.m., while the main programme will be held from 9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The schedule

PLACE	DATE	VENUE	ADDRESS
Mangaluru	17-05-2025	Sri Sudheendra Auditorium	Canara High School campus, Kodiabail, Mangaluru
Bidar	17-05-2025	Sri Poojya Channa Basava Pattadevaru Rang Mandir, near district stadium, Bidar	Sri Poojya Channa Basava Pattadevaru Rang Mandir, near district stadium, Bidar
Tumakuru	18-05-2025	Birla Auditorium	Siddaganga Institute of Technology , Tumakuru
Kalaburagi	18-05-2025	Poojya Doddappa Appa Sabha Bhavan	Poojya Doddappa Appa Sabha Bhavan, Sharana Basava University, Kalaburagi

The entry will be free for all students and parents. Each participating student will receive a complimentary copy of *The Hindu's Career Counselling Handbook* – a comprehensive resource featuring over 30 articles authored by distinguished academicians and industry professionals. This exclusive handbook aligns with contemporary academic trends and evolving career landscapes.

The sponsors of The Hindu Education Plus Career Counselling are:

Platinum sponsors: The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India; Presidency University; Reva University;

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Associate sponsors: Khaja Bandanawaz University, Kalaburagi; SDM Educational Society (R), Ujire; The Institute of Cost Accountants of India; Karnataka Bank; Shaheen Group of Institutions, Bidar; Bapuji Educational Association (Regd), Davangere; Hyderabad Karnataka Education Society, Kalaburagi; VTU; Navkis Engineering College, and IDBI.

Regional sponsor: MVJ College of Engineering, Bengaluru.

Snack partner: Naturo.

Those who wish to register for the event use this link: https://newsth.live/CET2025ED

For more information, call: 9448160126 / 9448871815.

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, MAY. 15
RISE 05:54 SET 18:38
RISE 21:04 SET 07:37

FRIDAY, MAY. 16
RISE 05:54 SET 18:38
RISE 21:57 SET 08:30

SATURDAY, MAY. 17
RISE 05:54 SET 18:38
RISE 22:48 SET 09:26

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	34	25
Mysuru	32	21
Bengaluru	31	20

Bengaluru Today
32°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be little warm. Chances of moderate to heavy rain and thundershower with gusty winds.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
33°C Day will be warm. Night will be pleasant. Few spells of moderate rain and thundershower with gusty winds to occur.

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THE HINDU
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THiS school students get remarkable results in CBSE class 10 and 12

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The students from the schools under The Hindu in School (THiS) programme have achieved excellent results in the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) examinations of class 10 and class 12.

From National Public School Indiaranagar, Kuhu Ghoshal secured 98.8% in the science stream of class 12. In the commerce stream, B. Harshini scored 97.4% and in humanities stream, Ipshitha Adarsh topped with 97.4%. From class 10, Kinjal Mishra and Praniti Sandeep Oswal topped with 98.4%.

Surya Vardhan Jagadeeshwar from JSS Public School, HSR Layout topped class 12 with 93.6% and Mahan K.S. is the topper of class 10 with 97%.

From Mahila Seva Samaja Senior Secondary School, Basavanagudi, Pranav A. Bharadwaj is the topper of class 12 with 94% and Iniyashree. P became the topper of class 10 with 94.2%.

With 98.2%, Aarya Jha emerged as the topper of class 12 of Christ Academy CBSE School, Hullahalli. Manyata Dash and Yadavi Ashok emerged the toppers of class 10 with 98.6%.

From National Public School Rajajinagar, Rishi. K. with 98.4% is the class 12 Science stream topper and K. Amruthavalli is the Commerce stream topper with 96%.

Manu Manjunath Neeralagi with 98.4% is the topper of class 12 in JSS Public School, Banashankari, 2nd stage.

From Sri Kumaran Children's Home, Mallasandra, Anushka Tonapi has topped class 10 with 99%. In class 12, Pranjalpranay Joshi is the Science topper with 98.6%, Samarth Jhunjhunwal emerged as the Commerce topper with 99.6% and Prakruthi. S. Krishnan emerged the Humanities topper with 99%.

Khushi Bharath, with 96.6% is the class 12 science stream of Army Public School, Kamraj Road. Sanjana. S., with 97.20% is the commerce topper and G. Vaishnavi and Aaliya Basit are the arts stream toppers with 96.20%. Lakshita Andola is the topper of class 10 with 97%.

From National Public School, Koramangala, Sohham Shrinath Joshi emegerged the class 10 topper with 98.6%. In class 12, Shashank Acharya is the Science stream topper with 97.2% and Ranvit Bahirwani is the Commerce topper with 98%.

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR SCRAP SALE
RFQ NO: RFQ /4GW-TN/TP-SOLAR/210450105 Date: 15.05.2025
M/s TP Solar Ltd, a subsidiary of Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited, invites interested bidders for the sale of scrap items including plywood pallets, interleaving paper, carton boxes, broken glass, MS empty barrels, aluminium frames, TCI, and polymer films. Clearance will be carried out on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis.
Bidders may inspect the scrap materials on any working day between 19.05.2025 to 24.05.2025. Offers must be submitted via email to bidtpsolar@tatapower.com before 26.05.2025, 17:00 hrs. Bids will be opened from 27.05.2025 at 10:00 hrs. onwards.
For eligibility criteria, specifications, and the list of essential documents required for participation, please refer to our website: www.tpsolarltd.com/tenders.
TP Solar Ltd, Tirunelveli reserves discretion to accept or reject any or all offers at any stage, without assigning any reason.
Head procurement

APPOINTMENT
NATIONAL PROJECTS CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of India Enterprise)
#1297, First Floor, 2nd Cross, KHB Colony, Magadi Road, Bengaluru - 560 079.
Ref.No.500001/Contract Appointment/2025/01/087 Date: 14.05.2025
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CORPORATE OFFICE: BLOCK-1, NEYVELI-607 801, TAMIL NADU
CIN: L93090TN1956GOI003507, Website : www.nlcindia.in
Advt. No. 05/2025
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ISSN 0971 - 751X

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The amount pledged by France for the repair of Chernobyl

10 In million euros. France will contribute 10 million euros to help fix a radiation cover at the Chernobyl nuclear plant in Ukraine, hit by a Russian drone, Europe's development bank announced. The amount was stated at the conference of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. AFP

Amount Pakistan received from the IMF in its second tranche

1.023 In billion dollars. The decision to release the funds came after the International Monetary Fund (IMF) expressed satisfaction on the first review of Pakistan's economic reform programme supported by the Extended Fund Facility (EFF). PTI

Drivers to undergo disaster management training in H.P.

190 The Himachal Road Transport Corporation's (HRTC) Una division has started a disaster awareness and training programme for its drivers and conductors at a workshop in Rampur. During the programme, about 15 employees will be trained daily in a total of 13 batches. PTI

Managerial positions held by women in India's private sector

24 In per cent. According to McKinsey & Company's 'Women in the Workplace' report, women in India hold just one in three entry-level private sector roles and only 24% of managerial positions. The report also found that at the entry level, women face lower promotion rates. PTI

Maoists killed in the 21-day action at Karregutta hills

31 Central and State security forces have eliminated at least 31 Naxals in a 21-day-long operation in the forests around Karregutta hills on the Chhattisgarh-Telangana border, officials said, asserting it is the "beginning of the end" of the Maoist menace. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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How did India develop genome edited rice?

Is India the first ever country to develop rice using genome editing technology? What are the unique characteristics of the two newly developed rice varieties? Are these crops genetically modified? What have been the controversies surrounding the announcement of these two genome-edited rice varieties?

EXPLAINER

A. M. Jigeesh

The story so far:

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan recently announced that India has become the first country in the world to develop rice varieties using genome editing technology. The new seeds will be available for farmers after the required clearances within six months and large-scale seed production will probably take place during the next three crop seasons.

What are the new varieties?

A team of researchers from various institutions, guided by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), were behind the development of the two varieties – the DRR Dhan 100, also known as Kamala, which was developed from a popular high yielding green rice Samba Mahsuri, and Pusa DST Rice 1, which was developed from the Maruteru 1010 (MTU1010) variety.

What are its peculiarities?

According to the ICAR, the increase in food demand, challenges posed by climate change and increasing biotic and abiotic stresses such as pest attacks and scarcity of water, led to the development of high yielding, climate resilient and nutritionally rich crop varieties. Kamala has shown superior yield, drought tolerance, high nitrogen use efficiency and 20 days earliness over its parent variety. It has an average yield of 5.37 tonnes per hectare against the 4.5 tonnes per hectare of Samba Mahsuri across two years and 25 locations of testing in the country. "The earliness trait will help in saving water, fertilizers, and reduced emission of methane," the ICAR said. The second variety, Pusa DST Rice 1, has a yield of 3,508 kilograms per hectare (a capacity of 9.66% more) over the parent rice variety, MTU 1010, which has an average yield of 3,199 kg per hectare under 'inland salinity stress'. It also showed a superiority of 14.66% over the MTU 1010 under alkalinity conditions, and a 30.4% yield advantage under coastal salinity stress.

Resilient rice: Union Minister of Agriculture Shivraj Singh Chouhan launches two genome-edited varieties of rice by the ICAR, at the NASC Complex in New Delhi on May 4. ANI

What was the technology used?

According to Joint Director (Research), Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Viswanathan. C, scientists have used Site-Directed Nuclease 1 and Site-Directed Nuclease 2 (SDN-1 and SDN-2) genome editing techniques to develop the seeds. Though this technique was used to develop different crops since 2001, such as tomatoes, a fish variety in Japan and a soybean variety in the U.S., making a rice variety has been done for the first time. In 2020, the first peer-reviewed research paper on Pusa DST Rice 1 was published, which got cited in more than 300 papers since then. The paper on Kamala is in the stage of publication. "The international research community has approved both the varieties," Dr. Viswanathan said.

Are they GM crops?

Dr. Viswanathan says that since the genome editing technology SDN-3 is not involved in this process, they are not genetically modified (GM) crops. In the SDN-1 approach, scientists make a cut and the repair is done automatically while in SDN-2, scientists give guidance to the cell to do the repair and the cell copies it. In SDN-3, however, scientists introduce a foreign gene from other varieties and integrate it into the improved varieties. This process is considered as genetic modification. In this case, the mutant was developed without any foreign gene and mutation occurred through natural process. This is a precision mutation technique and several countries have exempted this process from the regulations required for developing GM crops. "No foreign gene is there in these crops, only the native gene is there in the final product," Dr. Viswanathan said. A team of scientists from various governmental institutions were part of this research. It was tested in the fields under the All India Coordinated Research Project on Rice during 2023 and 2024.

What are the objections?

Venugopal Badaravada, who was a farmers' representative in the ICAR governing body said that the ICAR's genome-edited rice claims are premature and misleading. A day after the announcement he said in a statement that farmers demand accountability, transparent data, and technologies that are tested in our fields – not just polished press releases. He was expelled from the governing body soon after this and the ICAR accused Mr. Badaravada of spreading falsehoods about the institution. The Coalition for a Genetically Modified-Free India, a group of activists who are fighting a case against GM crops in the Supreme Court, said the biotech industry and lobbies have resorted to falsely portraying gene editing as a precise and safe technology, whereas published scientific papers show that this is untrue. "India's de-regulation of two kinds of gene editing is outright illegal," the organisation said. They claimed that gene editing tools are proprietary technologies under Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) ownership and have a direct bearing on the seed sovereignty of the country's farming community. "The Government of India has to reveal the situation with regard to IPRs on the released varieties transparently, immediately. The Government of India is compromising on farmers' seed sovereignty and our food sovereignty by bringing in technologies entangled in IPR issues," they said.

THE GIST

- According to the ICAR, the increase in food demand, challenges posed by climate change and increasing biotic and abiotic stresses such as pest attacks and scarcity of water, led to the development of high yielding, climate resilient and nutritionally rich crop varieties.
- The DRR Dhan 100, also known as Kamala, was developed from a popular high yielding green rice Samba Mahsuri, and Pusa DST Rice 1, was developed from the Maruteru 1010 (MTU1010) variety.
- Venugopal Badaravada, who was a farmers' representative in the ICAR governing body said in a statement that farmers demand accountability, transparent data, and technologies that are tested in our fields — not just polished press releases. He was expelled from the governing body soon after this.

Why are temperatures rising in A.P. and Telangana?

Why are Andhra Pradesh and Telangana more prone to experiencing heatwave-like conditions? Does the lack of rainfall and irrigation contribute to the extreme heat?

Priyali Prakash

The story so far:

On May 12, 17 districts of Andhra Pradesh recorded temperatures above 41°C, with the A.P. State Disaster Management Authority saying heatwave-like conditions are set to prevail in the northern districts of Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Paravathipuram-Manyam, East Godavari, and Kakinada. Mercury levels surged past the 40° C mark across all 33 districts of Telangana on April 21. Situated on the eastern side of the Deccan plateau in south India, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana feature regularly on the list of Indian States most prone to heatwaves during the summer.

How does the geographical location of the States affect the weather?

Latitudinally, both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana fall under the Tropic of Cancer. This puts the States in the Torrid (or tropical) Zone – a region characterised by its hot and humid weather. "Both A.P. and Telangana are near the Tropic of Cancer, therefore the sun is vertically above these States during summer months, leading to increased solar radiation and heating," Mahesh Palawat, Vice President, Meteorology and climate Change at Skymet, told *The Hindu*. Moreover, Telangana is a landlocked State with no major water bodies nearby to moderate temperatures. As a result, it experiences a continental climate, where temperatures can rise sharply during the day. This is also true for interior districts of Andhra Pradesh. According to Mr. Palawat, most parts of Telangana lie on the rocky terrain of the Deccan plateau with black soil, which absorbs more heat, causing temperatures to spike.

"Land surface, terrain and green cover make a lot of difference to the temperature of an area," Vimal Mishra, professor at IIT Gandhinagar, told *The Hindu*. "If you compare these States to regions which are under intensive agriculture or have dense forests, those areas are much cooler due to evaporative cooling," he said. Evaporative cooling is a process that leads to a reduction in temperature of the surroundings as water evaporates. In drier climates, when water evaporates, it takes up heat from the surroundings as its source of energy to convert to vapour, thus cooling the surroundings. "The terrain of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh is rocky and there isn't much agriculture during summer at least, and effect of irrigation is minimal," Dr. Mishra said. He also said that there is ample research to show that irrigation makes a lot of difference to summer air temperatures; that it can suppress heatwaves. "Irrigation involves using water on land surface, which is stored as soil moisture. During high temperatures in summer, evaporation from soil and transpiration from plants causes evaporative cooling in the area, reducing the intensity of heatwaves," Dr. Mishra said. The rocky terrain of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana does not allow for this phenomenon to be pronounced enough for it to make a difference in temperatures.

Lack of sufficient rainfall is another factor that leads to high summer temperatures in both States. "Between March and May, these States don't get enough rainfall to cool down the temperatures. Monsoon reaches here after June 10. This causes less cloud cover and more sunshine, hence leading to higher temperatures," Mr. Palawat said. Loss of forest cover also leads to reduction in evapotranspiration.

What should be done?

According to Dr. Mishra, the absence of early warnings forecast system based on hourly observations is one of the biggest challenges to mitigating heatwaves. "The India Meteorological Department has started working in this area, but lot of progress is still to be made."

Understanding the risk is the first step towards mitigating the impact of heatwaves, which should be followed by differentiating districts based on dry heat and humid heat, Dr. Mishra said.

THE GIST

- Latitudinally, both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana fall under the Tropic of Cancer. This puts the States in the Torrid (or tropical) Zone — a region characterised by its hot and humid weather.
- Telangana is a landlocked State with no major water bodies nearby to moderate temperatures. As a result, it experiences a continental climate.
- The absence of early warnings forecast system based on hourly observations is one of the biggest challenges to mitigating heatwaves.

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Public are hereby informed that my client intends to purchase the below mentioned Schedule Property from its lawful owner Mr. Gali Hanumantharaya S/o. Mr. Dasappa, aged about 67 years (Owner). The Owner represent that he is the absolute owner and has good marketable right, title and interest therein and there are no other persons have any right or claim over the Schedule Property.

Notice is hereby given to the general public that all persons including individual, Banks, Financial institutions etc., having any valid right, title interest or any claim over the Schedule Property or any portions of it in any manner may with documentary evidence lodge their objection/ claim/s within **7 days** from the date of this public notice with the undersigned, if no valid objections are received within the stipulated date, my client shall proceed on the basis that there are no claims of whatsoever nature with regard to the Schedule Property. Any objections/ claims received after the expiry of the period mentioned above shall neither be entertained nor shall be binding on our Client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Agricultural Dry land bearing **Sy.No.108/8 (earlier forming portion of Survey No. 108/4), measuring 1 Acres 10 Guntas, situated at Arakere Village, Hesaraghatta-2 Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk (earlier Bangalore North (additional) Taluk), Bengaluru Urban District** and **bounded on:**

East : Property bearing Survey No. 110,
West : Property bearing Survey No. 108/4;
North : Property bearing Survey No. 108/5;
South : Property bearing Survey No. 109.

PRAKASH PATIL, Advocate
Flat No.S1144, Golden Woods Apt., Sandal Wood Block, 1st Main, 1st Cross, Talacauvery Layout, Basavanagar, Bangalore - 560 037.
Mob : +91 9035022987

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

Office of the Chief Engineer (WWM-West),
6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009.

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(Through KPP Portal Only)

BWSSB invites Tenders from registered Agencies for the following Works.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount Put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last Date & Time for Submission of Tender	Date & Time for Opening of Tender
1	WWM-N-H&A.V	BWSSB/EE(WWM-N-H&A.V)/PB/280/2024-25 Dated: 19-07-2024	Rs. 39.62 Lakhs / Rs. 79,500/-	30-05-2025 Upto 5.30 PM	02-06-2025 at 12.00 PM
		BWSSB/EE(WWM-N-H&A.V)/PB/1130/2024-25 Dated: 17-02-2025	Rs. 95.50 Lakhs / Rs. 1,91,000/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (WWM-N-H&A.V)

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-Procurement Portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/Adverto/662/2025-26

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the Pubic that, our client **SRI. GAGANESH REDDY NARAYANA REDDY** S/o. Sri. C.R Narayana Reddy being Lessee of the Property described in the schedule hereto below, constructing the commercial building for sub-letting the same to the intending parties as per the Clause mentioned in the Lease Agreement dated 19.06.2024, executed between my client and Dr. T.N. Sathyaprabha and others, vide registered as Document No.BDH-1-01865-2024-25, Book-1, before the office of the sub-registrar Shivajinagar (Bidarahalli).

Therefore any person/s having any objection, claim, interest, right etc., in respect of the above said property or part thereof, by way of Sale, Exchange, Gift, Mortgage, Charge, Trust, Lease, Sub-Lease, Tenancy, Inheritance, Possession, Lien or otherwise, however are hereby make the same known in writing together with supporting documents to the undersigned within the time period of **15 Days** of the publication hereof failing which the claim of such person(s) will deemed to have been waived and/or abandoned.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of the converted land bearing Survey **No.28/4, (At present Sy.No.28)** Khatha No.315, Municipal No.140, measuring 32 Guntas and 03.04 Guntas of Kharab attached to it, vide official memorandum dated 12.09.2023, order bearing No.532544 passed by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore, situated at **Channasandra Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk** and bounded on:

East by : Remaining Land in Sy.No.28 (Previously Sy.No.28/1), West by : Remaining Land in Sy.No.28 (Previously Sy.No.28/5), North by : Road, South by : Land bearing Sy.No.28/2 and Sy.No.28/3.

Mallika & Associates,
Advocates,
No. 430, DSK Building, 2nd Floor, Varthur Road, Ramagondanahalli, Opp. to DNR Corp Atmosphere Apartment, Whitecield, Bangalore – 560066.
Ph.No.+91-8496986344.

Place: Bangalore Date: 14.05.2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that my Client **Syed Riyaz Pasha**, Son of Syed Sab, Mobile No.9844186456 has negotiated to purchase below mentioned Schedule Property from its present owner Abraham Thottungal Abraham, who has acquired the title & Possession by virtue of Registered Sale Deed dt:-07/07/2004 executed by Adiyappa & Others. Any person/s, institution/s having any right, title, interest, claim, demand, charge or encumbrance over the schedule property may notify his/their claim or objections if any, together with documentary proof to the undersigned within Fifteen (15) days from the date of this notice, failing which it would be conclusively presumed and deemed that no person/s has/have any right, title, interest, claim, charge or encumbrance whatsoever in the Schedule Property and further my client will be entitled to proceed with the transaction and get register the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Vacant Site Nos.11 & 12 Khata No.804 Assessment No.155/6, BBMP Property No.804/155/6/11-12, e.Aasthi Khata No.26305449555 situated at 20th Cross Road, 5th Block, Nagawara, Bangalore, Formerly Nagawara Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, BBMP Ward No.24, Measuring East to West-42.5feet (41+44/2) and North to South-57feet in all measuring 2423 sq.feet and bounded on the: East by: 40 feet Road, West by: Private Property, North by: Property No.10, South by: Property No.13.

R.A. RAHMAN, Advocate
#1, Tipu Chambers", 2nd Floor, 4th Cross, N.R. Road, Bangalore-560 002.

ODISHA CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION LIMITED
BHUBANESWAR, ODISHA

PIN: 751012, Tel No. (0674) 2562020, e-Mail: theoccltd@odishaconstruction.com
GSTIN-21AAACO2571K2ZM

"e-Procurement Notice No-08/OCCL/2025-26 (on-line)

On-line Item rate tenders are invited for the following work;

SI No	Name of Work	Bid Identification No	Approx value of work	Bid Security (through on line transfer only) (in Rs)	Period of Completion (in days)	Availability & Submission of tender of Tender (on-line)
1	TANK IMPROVEMENT/ RENOVATION/ MODERNISATION WORKS OF 08 (Eight) Nos. of Minor Irrigation Projects in Bhadrak & Jajpur District **(CLUSTER-V)** under OIIPCRA Scheme	OCCL_TSI_CL_V/2025-26	Rs.9.00 Crore	Rs.9,00,000/-	**270 days**	From 20/05/2025 10.00 Hrs to 18/06/2025, 15.00 Hrs.

Procurement Officer: Managing Director, OCCL
Date of Opening of the Tender: **18.06.2025, 15.30 Hrs. onwards**
Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal: https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in https://octdms.in https://odishaconstruction.com

Sd/- MANAGING DIRECTOR

CAD-407 OIPR-34176/11/0034/2526

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
(A Government Of India Undertaking)
Head Office: Bangalore

ARM-1 Branch,
2nd Floor, No.86, Spencer Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore-560001. Ph: 080 25310066
E-mail: cb2366@canarabank.com

SALE NOTICE

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 READ WITH PROVISO TO RULE 8 (6) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **ARM-I Branch (2366) of the Canara Bank, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is"** on **31.05.2025 (10.30 AM to 11.30 AM),** for recovery of **Rs.91,56,910.32 (Rupees Ninety one Lakh Fifty Six Thousand Nine Hundred Ten and Paise Thirty two Only) as on 12.05.2025 with further interest and charges thereon** due to the **BENGALURU ARM-I Branch (2366) of Canara Bank** from **(1) M/s Om Saravana Prints (Borrower), Prop. Mr. Saravanan Muniswamy,** No. 524 15-24-25, 13th Main, 5th Cross Viratnagar, Bommanahalli, Bangalore -560068 **(2) Mr. Saravanan Muniswamy (Proprietor),** C/o Munuswamy, No 57 G Floor, 5th Main 10th A Cross, Near Raj Garments Road, Virat Nagar Bommanahalli, Bengaluru South -560068. **Guarantor : (1) Mr. P. Vijaykumar (Mortgagor),** S/o V Perumal, # 69, Vibhuthipura, Marathahalli Post, Bangalore - 560037.

The Earnest Money shall be Deposited by way of **E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/)** portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through **RTGS/NEFT** in the account details as mentioned in the said challan on or before **30.05.2025 - 4.00 pm:-**

Lot No	Description of the immovable/movable assets:	Reserve Price	EMD Amount	Incremental value at Bid
1	**Name of Title holder : M/s Om Saravana Prints represented by Prop. Mr. Saravanan Muniswamy.** **Movable :** Hypothecation of Stocks and inventories **Name of Title holder : Sri P Vijaykumar** **Immovable :** All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Vacant site No.179, Khatha No.3164, Assessment No.631, situated at Vibhuthipura Village, Near Mariyamma Temple, K R Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, earlier Bangalore South taluk, now comes under Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike limits, Bengaluru, measuring East to West 30 feet and North to South 27 feet , in all measuring 810 sq ft, together with all rights, appurtenances, whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and bounded on the East : Property belongs to Sri Gangan, West : property belongs to sri Dhanraj, North : property belongs to Smt Pachhamma, South : Road.	Rs. 40,50,000/-	Rs. 4,05,000/-	**Rs. 50,000/-**

Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com) or E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/) portal and may contact ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru, Canara Bank, Ph. No.9627872626 and 9483532366 during office hours on any working day.

Date : 14.05.2025
Place: Bangalore

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Canara Bank

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
NOTIFICATION
New Delhi , the 7th May, 2025

S.O. 2042(E).- In the exercise of the powers conferred by clause (6) of section 20F and clause 7A of section 2 of the Railway Act, 1989 (24 of 1989) the central government hereby authorizes the officers mentioned in column (4) of the table below as 'Competent Authority' and the officers mentioned in column (5) of the table below as 'Arbitrator' to perform the functions as such authority under the said act with effect from date of publication of this notification in the official gazette in respect of Special Railway Projects mentioned in column (2) relating to district mentioned in column (3) of the table below for public purpose of execution, maintenance, management and operation of such Special Railway Project.

SN (1)	Name of the Project (2)	District (3)	Competent Authority (4)	Arbitrator (5)
1	Sasalu Frieght Terminal Development at Ch: 287/774 - 289/717 (Sasalu Village, Holalkere Taluk, Chitradurga District)	Chitradurga	Assistant Commissioner, Bengaluru	Regional Commissioner, Bengaluru

F. No. W.271/CN/BNC/2024-25/Land SRP/1727

S.O. 2041(E).- In the exercise of the powers conferred by clause (6) of section 20F and clause 7A of section 2 of the Railway Act, 1989 (24 of 1989) the central government hereby authorizes the officers mentioned in column (4) of the table below as 'Competent Authority' and the officers mentioned in column (5) of the table below as 'Arbitrator' to perform the functions as such authority under the said act with effect from date of publication of this notification in the official gazette in respect of Special Railway Projects mentioned in column (2) relating to district mentioned in column (3) of the table below for public purpose of execution, maintenance, management and operation of such Special Railway Project.

SN (1)	Name of the Project (2)	District (3)	Competent Authority (4)	Arbitrator (5)
1	Construction of 02 lane ROB in lieu of LC no. 56 at Ch: 92/600-700	Tumkur	Special Land Acquisition officer, Tumkur- Rayadurga Railway Project	Regional Commissioner, Bengaluru

F. No. W.271/CN/BNC/2025-26/Land SRP/1727

For details log on : https://egazette.gov.in

Deputy Chief Engineer/Construction/General
Bengaluru Cantonment

PUB/110/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26

South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

EXTRAORDINARY

PART-II Section 3 Sub-Section (ii)

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY)

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, 2nd May 2025

S.O. 1987(E).--In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-Section (I) of Section 20A of the Railway Act, 1989 (24 of 1989) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which has been given in the Schedule annexed hereto, is required for the execution of the Special Railway Project, namely, "Construction of ROB in lieu of LC No. 38 at Kyatsandra - Tumkur @ Ch: 65/300-400 (Baddihalli road, near fire station, Kyatsandra Village)", in the State of Kamataka, hereby declares its intention to acquire such land:

Any person interested in the said land may, within Thirty days from the date of publication of this notification in the official Gazette, raise objection to the acquisition and use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-section (I) of Section 20D of the said Act;

Every such objection shall be made to the competent authority, namely, Incharge Land Acquisition Officer Assistant Commissioner, Dharwad and Regional Commissioner, Belgavi for "Construction of ROB in lieu of LC No. 38 at Kyatsandra - Tumkur @ Ch: 65/300-400 (Baddihalli road, near fire station, Kyatsandra Village)" in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the competent authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquity, if any, as the competent authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow the objections;

Any order made by the competent authority under sub-section (2) of Section 20D of the said Act shall be final;

The land plans and other details of the land covered under this notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid Office of the competent authority.

SCHEDULE

Brief description of the land to be acquired, with or without structure, falling with in the proposed Special Railway Project of bridges in lieu of Level Crossing No. 38 (Baddihalli gate) for construction of Two lane ROB with service road in the State of Karnataka.

District: Tumakuru **Taluk:** Tumakuru
Hobli: Kasaba **Village:** Devarayapattana (Kyathsandra Area)

Sl. No.	Sy. No.	Beneficiary	Extent (in Acres - Gunta) Total (A-G)	A Kharab (A-G)	B Kharab (A-G)	Balance (A-G)	Classification of Land
1.	104/2	Director General. Kamataka State Fire and Emergency Services Department	0-07	-	-	0-07	Dry
2.	105	Govt. Land	0-06	-	0-06	-	Govt. Land
3.	107/2	K. S. Shanthaiah	0-13	-	0-00 1/4	0-12 3/4	Dry
4.	107/3	K. S. Shanthaiah. Gangambika W/o Late Umesh (Joint)	0-02	-	-	0-02	Dry
		Total	**0-28**	**-**	**0-06 1/4**	**0-21 3/4**	**-**

PUB/105/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26

[F. No.W.271/CN/BNC/2025-26/Land SRP/1727]
PARDEEP PURI, Chief Engineer/III

Man who raised pro-Pak. slogans held

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Whitefield police have arrested a software engineer on the charge of raising pro-Pakistan slogans.

The accused, Shubhanshu Shukla, 25, is a native of Raipur in Chhattisgarh, and stays at a paying guest accommodation at Prashanth Layout. On May 9, residents of other PGs were celebrating the success of Operation Sindoor when Shukla allegedly went up to the terrace and allegedly started raising pro-Pakistan slogans. Residents were baffled about his conduct and one of them recorded the incident on his mobile phone before alerting the police.

Shukla managed to flee by the time the police reached the spot, but the police tracked him down and arrested him on Tuesday. "The accused was drunk and wanted to have fun and see the reactions of the people [to his actions]," the police said.

Funding for Centrally sponsored schemes declining: Chief Minister

As against the mandated ₹22,758 crore, the Union govt. released only ₹18,562 crore to the State during 2024-25, he says

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Congress government led by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, which will be completing two years in office next week, on Wednesday reviewed the progress of various Centrally sponsored schemes and said the Centre's funding for the National Health Mission, Prime Minister Ayushman Bharat, and many other schemes had declined by 40-50%, from the 100-90% range to 50-60%.

Mr. Siddaramaiah chaired the State-level meeting of the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA) and reviewed the utilisation of funds under the Centrally sponsored schemes during 2024-25. The Chief Minister said that as of March 2025, both the Central and State governments had spent ₹46,859 crore on the Centrally sponsored schemes. As against the mandated release of ₹22,758 crore, the Centre released only ₹18,562 crore to the State, which constituted about 82%.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh at the State-level meeting of the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

The Chief Minister told the MPs from all parties representing the State to pressurise the Union government to release allocated funds. He directed officials to ensure 100% utilisation of funds during the year.

He said currently the Centre and the State share the funding of the Centrally sponsored schemes in the ratio of 60:40. However, the State contributed significantly to schemes such as midday meals by providing milk and eggs, and this increased the State's share to 70-80%, he said.

Upper Bhadra Project

The Centre did not release funds for the Upper Bhadra Project, social security schemes, and computerisation of primary agricultural cooperative societies during 2024-25, he said.

Under the MGNREGA scheme, the Narendra Modi-led government allocated ₹2,200.4 crore during 2024-25, of which the State received ₹1,933.48 crore. A sum of ₹266.92 crore was yet to be released by the Centre to the State, he said.

Referring to the shortfall in the Jal Jeevan Mission, the meeting noted that the Centre had not released ₹10,889 crore during the last two years. In 2024-25, an allocation of ₹3,804 crore had been earmarked for the State, out of which only ₹570.7 crore was released. A sum of ₹3,234 crore had not been released, he said.

Similarly, the Centre had kept pending ₹65.82 crore under the Swachch Bharat Mission. Of the allocated ₹215.82 crore, the State received ₹150 crore during 2024-25. Under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, too, of the allocated ₹100 crore, only ₹34.21 crore was released to the State during the same year, Mr. Siddaramaiah said.

The situation was not different under the National Rural Livelihood Mission. The Centre released ₹298.73 crore as against the sanctioned ₹398 crore, he said.

'Anti-communal force will be extended to other districts too'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

G. Parameshwara

Home Minister G. Parameshwara on Wednesday said the proposed anti-communal force, aimed at addressing communal tensions and crimes in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts, would be extended to other districts of the State. Incidents of moral policing, which are communal in nature, would also be entrusted to the anti-communal force, the Minister said.

Soon after the murder of Hindutva activist and murder accused Suhas Shetty in Mangaluru, Dr. Parameshwara had announced that the anti-communal force, on the lines of the Anti-Naxal Force (ANF), would be established to address and mitigate communal disturbances in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts.

Speaking to presspersons here, he said, polarisation was taking place here and there, and the government wants to ensure that all those things are put to rest. "I had asked the Director-General of Police to send a proposal in this regard, and I am told that they have sent it. We will examine it and approve it at the government level. Initially, I announced it for two districts, now we may extend to any district where there are communal issues," the Minister said.

Responding to a question on whether moral policing would also be referred to the anti-communal force, Dr. Parameshwara said, incidents of moral policing which are communal in nature, would naturally attract action by the anti-communal force.

Dr. Parameshwara had earlier said that a senior officer of the rank of the Inspector-General of Police (IGP) or above would be entrusted with the leadership and supervision of this anti-communal force.

Blissful slumber

Nap time: A child finds comfort at the site of a protest organised by the Socialist Unity Centre of India (Communist) against price rise, at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Wednesday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Dept. to do away with PPP model to operate '108' ambulance service

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Health Department is all set to take over the '108' Arogya Kavacha ambulance service – currently run on a PPP model – and operate it. At a press conference on Wednesday, Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao said the service would now be run completely by the department. "This will not only make the service more effective and benefit people but will also save crores of rupees to the State exchequer," he said.

Pointing out that all ambulances running under the Arogya Kavacha service in Chamarajanagar are currently being operated by the department on a pilot basis, the Minister said that soon all Arogya Kavacha and other government ambulances across the State would be converted into a common fleet to run the free emergency response service.

The government had entered into an agreement with GVK-EMRI in 2008 for 10 years on a PPP model. Although the company's agreement with the government ended, new tenders for the service are yet to be finalised due to poor response from service providers. As a result, the current service provider has been asked to continue till further orders.

"By taking over the service from the private partner, we will be doing away with the PPP model. Following several complaints and problems plaguing the system, we consulted several experts and held mature deliberations on taking over the service and running it on our own. The Chamarajanagar pilot has proved successful and we will soon extend it across the State," he said.

Stating that the government owns all the ambulances and pays the private company to run the service, the Minister added, "... If the department runs it instead of the agency, it will result in savings of crores of rupees to the State exchequer. Besides, it will also improve the system."

The Minister said that in the next one month, the department would take over all the government ambulances in the State under its management. "After this, within three months, we will take over the management of '108' ambulances under our command control centre," he said.

Yatnal booked for insulting Gandhiji

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Congress workers in Vijayapura have filed a complaint against Basanagouda R. Patil Yatnal, MLA who has been expelled from the BJP, for having allegedly insulted Mahatma Gandhi.

In a complaint submitted at the Adarsh Nagar police station, they said Mr. Yatnal had described Gandhiji as the "father of Pakistan" in a statement made before the media in Vijayapura on May 11.

In his complaint, Allabaksh Dongarisab Badeghar said Mr. Yatnal had claimed that Gandhiji had divided the country and created Pakistan only for Muslims. He had also said it was a matter of shame for Indians to install statues of Gandhiji, according to the complaint. The police registered an FIR under BNS sections 196 (promoting enmity between different groups) and 353 (making, publishing, or circulating statements, false information, or rumours that could cause public mischief, incite hatred, or disrupt harmony between different groups).

Health Dept. revises salaries of doctors, staff nurses under NHM

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Dinesh Gundu Rao

Following approval from the Centre, Karnataka's Health Department has now made an upward revision in the salaries of doctors and staff nurses, who will be newly recruited under the National Health Mission (NHM).

Announcing the new salary structure at a press conference on Wednesday, Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao said that due to comparatively lower salaries, a large number of doctor posts under the NHM have remained vacant despite efforts to initiate recruitment processes.

The unattractive pay scale has led to limited interest from qualified candidates, causing these vacancies to persist over a long period. Currently, of the 1,398 approved positions for MBBS doctors under the NHM for 2024-2025, only 819 have been filled, leaving 579 positions vacant. Of the 899 sanctioned posts of specialist doctor, 305 remain vacant. Similarly, 936 of the 9,041 sanctioned posts of staff nurse are yet to be filled.

"Following a detailed proposal submitted by the State government, approval has been granted under the NHM Supplementary Record of Proceedings (RoP) 2024-2026 for the revised pay structure," he said.

Giving details of the revised pay scale, the Minister said the monthly salary of MBBS doctors has been raised to ₹60,000, up from the earlier range of ₹46,895 to ₹50,000. Major clinical specialists (OBG, paediatrics, anaesthesia, general medicine, orthopaedics, surgery, and ophthalmology) will now receive ₹1,40,000, an increase from the previous range of ₹1,10,000 to ₹1,30,000. The salary of staff nurses has been revised to ₹22,000, from the earlier range of ₹14,186 to ₹18,774, the Minister said.

"In the case of experienced candidates, an additional 2.5% increment per year of relevant experience will be provided at the time of appointment," the Minister said.

For new recruits

Pointing out that the revised salary structure will apply only to newly recruited personnel, Mr. Rao said existing staff would continue to receive their current salaries.

"We cannot revise the salaries of the existing staff as they are already getting an annual increment of 5%. However, they may choose to resign and reapply under the new recruitment process. During this process, preference will be given (weightage of two marks awarded per year of service) to current employees based on their experience," he said. He said there was no guarantee that they would get appointed for sure, as the recruitment is purely on merit. "The salary revision is expected to attract a larger pool of qualified doctors under the NHM, thereby improving services related to maternal and child health, surgeries, and both inpatient and outpatient care. "Ultimately, this will enhance healthcare delivery and benefit the public at large," he said.

Delayed salaries

Clarifying that the delay in payment of two months' salaries to the existing staff was because of the delay in disbursal of funds from the Centre, Mr. Rao said the issue would be resolved in the next few days.

"This is a regular phenomenon every year at the start of the new fiscal year. However, we were managing by paying them from the remaining pool of the opening balance. This year, we have spent over 95% of the NHM allocation, and there are no balance funds," he said.

TAMIL NADU HOUSING BOARD
CHENNAI CIRCLE-I
(Superintending Engineer(Addl.ch), Chennai Circle-I),
Tamil Nadu Housing Board, Chennai-600 035).E-mail:secctnhb@gmail.com, Ph:24322070

e- Tender Notice No:CC-I/02/2025-2026 Date:14.05.2025

Name of Work	Approximate Value of works Rs. in Lakhs (Incl GST 18%)	EMD in Rs.
1) Construction of 40 Nos. of (S+5) tenements in R.S.no. 3675/1pt at Kamarajar Nagar in George Town Taluk (North East) of Block No. 32, Corporation Division 14 of Chennai District	Rs.630.77	Rs.3,26,000/-
2) Construction of 300 dwelling units (Ground + 5 Floors) at Osankulam, Chennai Comprised in R.S.No:385/31, Block No.24 of Egmore village & taluk within the limits of Greater Chennai Corporation	Rs.4435.63	Rs.22,28,000/-

1. For Tender document visit **https://tntenders.gov.in** Date and Time for downloading and starting date for submission of tender documents: **22.05.2025** at **3.00 PM** and closing date of tender documents: **23.06.2025** at **3.00 PM.**
2. Date and Time of opening of the e-Tender: **23.06.2025** at **3.30 PM**
3. Detailed Tender Notice is available in the website:**https://tntenders.gov.in.**

DIPR/ 2282 /TENDER/2025

Superintending Engineer(Addl.ch)
Chennai circle-I/TNHB

TAMIL NADU HOUSING BOARD
MADURAI CIRCLE
(Superintending Engineer, Madurai Circle,
Tamil Nadu Housing Board, Ellisnagar, Madurai-625 016)
E-mail: semctnhb@yahoo.in
e-Tender Notice No :MC/01/2025-2026 Date: 14.05.2025

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Approximate Value of works Rs. in Lakhs (Incl. GST @ 18%)	EMD in Rs.
1	Construction of 72 tenements (G + 2 Storied) at Old Fish Market Colony in T.S.No.640 of Kumbakonam Town, Block No:6, Ward No.5, Thanjavur District.	1045.73	5,33,000/-
2	Construction of 84 tenements (Block A-60 Nos. & Block B-24 Nos.) (G + 3) at Kottakollai, T.S.No.41 pt. of Tiruchirappalli Town, Block No: 31, Ward No.X, Trichy District .	952.81	4,87,000/-

1. For Tender document visit **https://tntenders.gov.in** Date and Time for downloading and submission of tender documents: **From 19.05.2025 at 3.00 P.M. to 18.06.2025 upto 01.00 P.M.**
2. Date and Time of opening of the e-Tender: **18.06.2025 at 3.00 P.M.**
3. Detailed Tender Notice is available in the website: **https://tntenders.gov.in.**

DIPR/ 2279 /TENDER/2025

Superintending Engineer,
Madurai Circle/TNHB.

महा मेट्रो
THANE METRO

MAHARASHTRA METRO RAIL CORPORATION LTD.
(A joint venture of Govt. of India & Govt. of Maharashtra)
"Metro Bhavan", VIP Road, Near Dikshabhoomi, Ramdaspeth, Nagpur-440010. E-mail : md.nmrcl.tenders@gmail.com
(THANE INTEGRAL RING METRO PROJECT)

Tender Notice No. T1-015/C-01/2025 Dt. 14.05.2025

Name of work : Design and Construction of Elevated Metro Viaduct of length 20.527 kms between UG Ramp and Balkum Naka including Depot Approach Viaduct and three Special Spans for Thane Integral Ring Metro Project.

Cost of Documents : INR 1,18,000/- (inclusive of GST).

Interested Bidders may visit **www.mahametro.org** or CPP Website : **https://eprocure.gov.in** for NIT. Bid documents can be downloaded from **https://mahatenders.gov.in** from **16.00** Hrs of **29.05.2025.**

Executive Director/ Procurement
Maha-Metro

Tamil Nadu Power Distribution Corporation Ltd.
Notice Inviting Tenders (E-Tendering Process)

Specification No.	Tender Inviting Authority	Name of the work (in brief)
M.152 / 2025-26	CE / MM	Supply of 110V/300AH & 110V/120AH tubular type lead acid stationary batteries in SAN container with stand (under buy back scheme)

For details of works / Procurement / Due date of submission / Opening, viewing and downloading of e-tenders, please visit the websites, **www.tnpdcl.org, www.tenders.tn.gov.in, www.tntenders.gov.in**

DIPR/2256/Tender/2025

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
CIN : U85110KA1970SGC001919

ABSTRACT TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited through e-Procurement Portal (Website URL: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**) for below mentioned works:

RAICHUR THERMAL POWER STATION

(1) No.: KPCL/2025-26/PS/WORK_INDENT2868, dated 08.05.2025 for **Providing and erection of bottom ash hopper side doors and replacement of feed gate SS liners of Unit-7 AHP.** Last date and time for receipt of tenders: **22.05.2025 up to 16.00 hrs.**

Further details can be had from Executive Engineer (AHP-2), RTPS, KPCL, Shakthinagar. Mob: 9449596551.

BALLARI THERMAL POWER STATION

(2) No.: KPCL/2025-26/PS/WORK_INDENT2872, dated 12.05.2025 for **Routine, Breakdown maintenance and assistance for operation of pumps and compressors of Dust extraction, Dust suppression, Dry fog Dust suppression and Tunnel ventilation system of CHP Unit #3.** EMD: **Rs. 51,820/-.** Last date for submission of Bids: **05.06.2025 up to 17.00 hrs.**

Further details can be had from the office of the Executive Engineer (CHP) Mechanical-2, BTPS, KPCL, Kudathini-583152, Ballari Dist. Mob.: 9448290755.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Enduring threat: Security personnel conduct a search operation near the spot where an unknown jet crashed, at Wuyan, Pampore, in Pulwama district, on May 7. PTI

Tackling Pakistan's proxy wars and the dangers posed by Lashkar-e-Taiba

Two writers analyse Pakistan's use of several proxies to expand its geopolitical interests abroad. They explain why LeT is 'the most lethal and most loyal' outfit of the Pakistani establishment, and why supporting militant groups has been part of the country's 'strategic thinking' for decades

Stanly Johny

In September 2016, after the Jaish-e-Mohammed attacked the Indian Army Brigade headquarters in Uri in Jammu and Kashmir, killing 19 soldiers, the Indian commandos conducted a cross-border operation targeting terror launchpads and safe houses in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. In February 2019, after a suicide attack killed 40 security personnel in Pulwama, Kashmir, India launched a cross-border strike at Balakot in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa that led to an aerial dogfight between the air forces of both countries. And on May 7, 2025, India launched a massive cross-border strike in Pakistan, targeting nine locations in response to the April 22 Pahalgam massacre, which was initially claimed by The Resistance Front (TRF), a front of the Lashkar-e-Taiba.

This time, tensions rapidly escalated to an aerial conflict with the two nuclear powers launching missiles and drones at each other. Pakistan has a well-documented history of using terror as a tactical means to "bleed India through thousand cuts".

LeT's operations

To understand this doctrine, one has to understand the players involved. Christine Fair's *In Their Own Words: Understanding Lashkar-e-Tayyaba* (LeT) offers a detailed picture of the Pakistan-based terror group that has carried out several attacks in India over the years.

The world woke up to the dangers posed by LeT only after the 2008 terrorist attacks in Mumbai that killed more than 160 people. Though the group was recognised as a foreign terrorist organisation by the U.S. government in December 2001, the U.S. saw it largely as India's problem. The Mumbai attacks changed that approach. There was a pile-up of literature on LeT, and the U.S. started putting more pressure on Pakistan, its Cold War ally, to take action against the group. Pakistan banned LeT in January 2002, but the group continued its anti-India operations in one way or another. Fair's book tells the readers why and how LeT survived the global anti-terror campaign.

Fair, a professor at Georgetown University, U.S., tells the story of the LeT by analysing the group's own literature. She places the rise of the jihadist group in the larger context of Pakistan's power complex and its 'revisionist' character. Pakistan was not satisfied with the outcome of Partition. It has always wanted to change the geography of the subcontinent. Pakistan "will wage a war for 1,000 years" against India, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto declared at the UN Security Council on September 22, 1965. But when the geography of the subcontinent changed in 1971, it was Pakistan that lost territory, and India emerged victorious. Since it lacked the conventional might to do so – all its attempts to change the status quo through conventional conflicts were thwarted by India – it turned to sub-conventional methods. Over the years, Pakistan has used several proxies to expand its geopolitical interests abroad. Of them, LeT is "the most lethal and most loyal" outfit of the Pakistani establishment, argues Fair.

Ideological convergence

Why so? There's an ideological convergence between the LeT and the Pakistani establishment. The Pakistani Army doesn't want the proxies to challenge its interests within the country. For LeT, 'jihad' is the battles it fights beyond Pakistan's borders (say, India and Afghanistan). Even when other proxy groups turned against the Pakistani military in the wake of its joining hands with the U.S.'s war on terror in the early 2000s, LeT never launched attacks within Pakistan. Inside the country, LeT stayed focussed on its social and philanthropic activities, while in India and Afghanistan, it carried out subverting activities. This suits the establishment, which in return offers protection to LeT.

Fair gives a detailed account of the LeT's ideological roots, organisational structure and its evolution as a hydra-headed social and militant outfit. When the group came under international pressure, it would rename itself as a social organisation and emerge unaffected by state actions. Fair says there were occasions where intelligence warned the group about impending government actions so that LeT or its parent organisation Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD) could take counter-measures in advance. JuD or LeT had built countless family organisations, a wide network of activists, large fund-raising capabilities and thousands of recruitment centres.

Playing a 'double game'

Supporting militant groups was part of Pakistan's "strategic thinking" for decades, writes Carlotta Gall in *The Wrong Enemy: America in Afghanistan, 2001-2014*. Pakistan has used this approach not only against India, but also against the U.S. When the U.S. sent troops to Afghanistan in October 2001 after the September 11 attacks, the plan was to retaliate against al-Qaeda, take down the Taliban regime which provided asylum to the al-Qaeda leadership and install a friendly government in Kabul. After 20 years, the U.S. withdrew from Afghanistan, leaving the country back in the hands of the Taliban. And throughout these 20 years, Pakistan was both an ally of America in its war on terror and a protector of the Taliban. This is what Gall calls Pakistan's "double game".

By the time the U.S. realised this double game, it was too cagey to take action because it wanted Pakistan's continued support in the war. Gall argues that the Inter-Service Intelligence, Pakistan's infamous spy agency, supported Osama bin Laden throughout his hiding since 2001. And they got away with that support without much international opprobrium even after Bin Laden was killed in an American raid in Abbottabad in May 2011.

So what can be done in dealing with Pakistan's proxy wars? Fair lays down three options – maintain the status quo, decapitate the leadership, or escalate tensions. The problem is that Pakistan's nuclear capability offers the country some protection for its proxy activities. By launching strikes inside Pakistan against terror attacks, India has opted for controlled escalation. It is trying to create room for manoeuvre under the nuclear threshold. And by launching counterattacks, Pakistan is challenging India's resistance against the status quo.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Border tensions with Pakistan acquired a new character after India's and Pakistan's nuclear tests. This quiz explores a few notable moments

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1

From May 11 to 13 in 1998, India conducted a series of five nuclear tests altogether called Operation _____ in Pokhran, after the devices were transported in an innocuous convoy from Mumbai. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 2

During the series, the shaft for the first device was codenamed _____ _____, the second 'Taj Mahal' and the third 'Kumbhkaran'. When the first device was detonated successfully, the 58 Engineer Regiment relayed a message to New Delhi: "The _____ _____ has collapsed". Fill in the blanks (with the same word pair).

QUESTION 3

The impetus for the Pokhran II tests were led in 1996 by A.B. Vajpayee, and in fact was delayed by one day at an important juncture because he couldn't contact _____ _____, which some scientists said delayed the tests by two years. Fill in the blanks.

QUESTION 4

India's decision to test nuclear weapons became all but clear when it became increasingly critical of the X Treaty despite having supported it in principle earlier. In September 1996, India, Libya, and Bhutan voted against the treaty's adoption at the UN. Name the treaty.

QUESTION 5

Following Pokhran II, Pakistan conducted multiple nuclear tests of its own on May 28 and 30, 1998. The tests were named for the district in Balochistan that hosted the test range. Name it.

Visual question: Name this noted Pakistani nuclear physicist and a leading opponent of nuclear weapons who, after Pokhran II, held India's actions responsible for Pakistan's nuclear tests. TEDX TALKS/YOUTUBE

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The average adult human skin covers these many square feet. **Ans: Around 20 sq feet**
2. The range of taste buds humans posses. **Ans: 2,000-8,000 taste buds**
3. Humans loose these many skin cells every hour. **Ans: 200 million skin cells are shed every hour**
4. Number of times a heart beats over the course of an average human lifespan. **Ans: Over three billion times**
5. The average person's hair grows this long. **Ans: Six inches a year**
Visual: The human nose can detect these many odours. **Ans: Over 1 trillion smells**
Early Birds: Akshay Kumar Khanna| Namdev Singh

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian
S. Upendran

"How do you pronounce e..x..a..c..e..r..b..a..t..e?"

"Where did you come across that word?"

"First, you tell me how it is pronounced and then..."

"...o.k! O.K! The word 'exacerbate' consists of four syllables. The first syllable is 'ig' and it rhymes with the words 'big,' 'wig' and.....'pig'!

"Why do you have to bring yourself into the conversation? Ha! Ha! Ooops, sorry!"

"The second syllable 'xa' sounds like 'xa' in words like 'exam' and 'exact'. The 'c' in the third syllable 'cer' is pronounced like the 's' in words like 'sit,' 'set' and 'sat'. And the 'er' sounds like the final 'a' in 'China'."

"The final syllable 'bate' rhymes with the words 'hate,' 'mate' and 'late', I suppose."

"That's right! So the word is pronounced eXAcerbate, with the stress on the second syllable."

"EXAcerbate! That's a mouthful. But tell me, what does the word mean?"

"When you 'exacerbate' something, you increase the severity, violence, or bitterness of something. For example, if we do not act now, we will only exacerbate the situation."

"This is the example I found in the newspaper. 'By withholding the funds, the Centre hopes to exacerbate the situation in the state'."

"Here is an example that we can all relate to. The frequent power cuts exacerbated their misery."

"Please, don't even mention power cuts. This year it was really bad!"

"Yes, it was, wasn't it? But remember, 'exacerbate' is a formal word and.."

"... you mean I can't use it to impress my friends?"

"You can if you want to, but they'll think you're showing off."

"So, how do I impress my friends?"

"Why don't you get some decent marks in your next exam?"

"I asked for a suggestion, not a question!"

"But the expression 'why don't you..' is a polite way of making a suggestion."

"What?"

"For example, if you have been reading for a long time and you say 'I'm tired,' I could reply, 'why don't we go for a walk?.' When I say that, I'm not asking you a question. I'm making a suggestion, that you and I should take a walk."

"So, if I say, 'Why don't we go to the movies?' is it the same thing as 'Let's go to the movies'?"

"Yes, it's a much more polite way of saying 'Let's go to the movies.' Hey, why don't we go to Delhi this winter?"

"Delhi during the winter! You must be joking. It's so cold. You have to be near to the heater all the time."

"It's not 'near to ' but 'near.' You have to be near the heater all the time. Here's another example. The Minister of Education lives near my house."

"The only thing near my house is an open drainage. And it exac..exa...exacerbates the mosquito problem. I think we should talk to the Minister."

Published in The Hindu on July 9, 1996.

Word of the day

Tranche:
a portion of something (especially money)

Synonyms: part, percentage, share

Usage: *The second tranche of lottery funding was released.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/tranchepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /tɑ̃ʃ/, /tɑ̃nʃ/, /tɑ̃nʧ/, /tænʧ/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

HAL Airport reopening: Stakeholders meet, deliberate on modalities

Today, it takes almost two hours to even reach the gates of the Kempegowda International Airport, which is more than 40 km away from the city centre

Rasheed Kappan
BENGALURU

HAL Airport, before it was closed for civilian flights in May 2008, handled 10 million passengers a year. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Is it finally time to see some action on reopening the HAL Airport, an air traffic hub right in the heart of the city, before the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) took all civilian flights away in 2008? After years of widespread public demand, the big stakeholders could be nearing a decision. However, despite the overwhelming evidence of public convenience, challenges remain.

All the key stakeholders met in Delhi on April 15 and discussed the issue threadbare. A flashy new second airport for the city could take at least a decade to be operationalised. But if the stakeholders decide, the existing HAL airport could be up and ready for flights in weeks. The big question: Will the State and Centre, Airports Authority of India (AAI), the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), the Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) and HAL reach a consensus to act?

Who will run the airport?

The Delhi meeting last month had the stakeholders deliberate on the question of the modalities related to who will run the HAL airport if it is reopened, Bengaluru South MP Tejasvi Surya told *The Hindu*. "The question is about whether AAI or BIAL will do it. AAI is keen that they will themselves do the operations while BIAL says there is a no-compete clause, and therefore they will have to be given the opportunity to run the operations. So the modalities are being worked out how this can be done," he explained.

Since the first meeting was not conclusive, the Civil Aviation Secretary has asked the stakeholders to meet again. Tejasvi elaborated: "I am told that the (next) meeting will discuss threadbare the details and modalities and bring a few workable propositions to the table. I am meeting with the Civil Aviation Minister again sometime this month, maybe next time I go to Delhi for the next PAC meeting. I will raise this matter again and let's see where this is going to go."

Today, it takes almost two hours to even reach the gates of the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), more than 40kms away from the city centre. The chaotic Hebbal interchange is in a mess, severely slowing down airport approach by road. The much-hyped Airport Metro connectivity is at least 2.5 years away, and the suburban railway corridor is nowhere in the picture.

The HAL Airport in 2008. FILE PHOTO

Upgrade plan

Anticipating a decision, the AAI is reportedly ready with a master plan to equip the HAL airport with the necessary upgrades for commercial flights. Although its single 3,306m-runway has no scope for extension, the airport upgrade agenda integrates a multi-level car parking for 500 vehicles and enhanced terminal capacity. By May 2008, when it was closed for commercial flights, the airport had reached a passenger capacity of 10 million per year.

The big question is: Will the BIAL allow an amendment to the concession agreement that disallows any commercial airport within an aerial distance of 150km from KIA? The agreement signed with the Union Ministry of Civil Aviation, and the State Government as a signatory, is effective till May 2033.

In October 2020, the State Cabinet had agreed to extend the concession agreement by 30 years. Significantly, it had a clause that BIAL would be allowed to operate the HAL airport for civilian use by exempting the latter from the 150km agreement condition. However, in 2024 April, a formal government notification on the extension did not mention HAL airport or the related clause.

For HAL, the airport had to be operational 24/7 for its fighter jet test flights, chartered VVIP and military personnel flights in all these 17 years. But to generate revenue, it wanted to reopen for civilian flights and was in touch with BIAL and the government for years.

'Can decongest KIA'

"The opening of HAL airport should be welcomed in the interest of the traveling public. The infrastructure is already there and can be readied with some uplift once the decision to allow commercial flights are taken," says Gopal Sutar, who recently retired as HAL spokesperson.

According to him, reopening makes sense since the current airport is getting extremely busy and in recent times flights have been diverted to Chennai due to traffic congestion.

However, a full-fledged reopening is unlikely since HAL is under pressure to accelerate its military aircraft manufacture and testing. As aviation analyst Sanjeev Dyamannavar points out, "They could operate 10-12 civilian flights in the early morning and late evening. Not more than that. Even late-night flights to Delhi or Mumbai can take off and land here, apart from the regional ones to Huballi and other destinations. KIA will not have slots during peak hours, particularly after 7 p.m.," he says.

However, Gopal says this will not be an issue and cites the case of Goa's Dabolim airport operated by AAI as a civil enclave in an Indian Navy airbase.

Accessibility issues

Unlike KIA, HAL Airport does not face major accessibility issues. But the mounting traffic on Old Airport Road remains a challenge with no plans for a Metro line on that route. However, there are options to explore road connectivity from the Inner Ring Road side and through Yemalur from the Outer Ring Road side.

These would be critical if the objective is to offer flyers from Whitefield, Mahadevapura, HAL, Indiranagar and other East Bengaluru localities an alternative to KIA for short-haul flights. Urbanist V. Ravichandar puts this in perspective when he says: "Opening HAL airport makes sense if we wish to sweat our existing assets optimally. It could be used for short haul flights under an hour."

He feels there will be challenges in investing in new infrastructure, and it would be dependent on BIAL willing to go along with the plan since they have airport rights till 2033. Tejasvi Surya had indicated in February that both BIAL and HAL were keen to get the airport reopened.

So was the Civil Aviation Minister. He was convinced that the old airport would augment BIAL's capacity, while creating a revenue stream for HAL.

Currently, the HAL airport runway is equipped with a Category I Instrument Landing System (ILS), and is capable of handling aircraft as large as the Boeing 747. Thirty parking spots and two helipads are part of the airfield. The airport caters to an estimated 12 aircraft in a day, mainly small airplanes of VIPs, private entities and the fighter test flights.

City NGO committed to preserving Chittara folk art of Malnad's Deevara community

This folk art involves intricate geometric patterns painted on walls, and is deeply ingrained in the Deevara community's culture and traditions

Sophia Mary Mathew
BENGALURU

A traditional Hase Chittara by Deevara artist Sruthi, displayed at IIWC, depicts a marriage ceremony, employing motifs of musicians, sun and moon, and birds on either corners. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Chittara (hase chitra) is an endangered folk art form practised by members of the Deevara community settled in the Malnad region,
especially Shimoga, Sagara and Uttara kannada districts, of Karnataka.

Giving extreme attention to details, colour, and symmetry, the art is a tribute to the Earth and its elements, while also being a testament to the deeply respectful and sustainable lifestyle of the community, according to Geetha Bhat, Founder, The Centre for Revival of Indigenous Art (CFRIA), a NGO which has been actively working to revive, restore and preserve Chittara and assisting thousands of artisans involved in this folk art form.

"Every aspect of the community - whether in the way they make use of natural resources, their rituals, or their art - is relevant to the present context, in terms of sustainability, eco-friendliness, and collaboration with the environment," Bhat told *The Hindu*.

This folk art involves intricate geometric patterns painted on walls, trays, bamboo or fibre baskets, and is deeply ingrained in the Deevara community's culture and traditions. The art form mostly depicts unity and celebration like festivals and weddings, according to her.

CFRIA has organised a four-day exhibition which concluded on Tuesday (May 13) at Indian Institute of World Culture (IIWC) at Basavanagudi to showcase the nuggets, glimpses, impressions and knowledge the NGO gathered through interactions members of Deevara community of the Malnad region.

"At the exhibition, we were offering a true reflection of the life, culture and occupation of the Deevara community, through their ethnic folk art form, Chittara. It was the result of interactions with the community for 21 years and some three years of research and documentation," she added.

On the relevance of Deevara Chittara for the urban audience, Namrate Cavale, space curator of the exhibition said, "It helps to look at the traditional knowledge systems around us, because it allows us to question our actions, its purpose, appreciate and revive these art forms, while also going back to our rich roots."

Interestingly, although Chittara folk art works are so vibrant and colourful, only four colours, all natural, are used by artists for drawings. These are: red (red soil or crushed red stones), black (charcoaled rice or seed of a particular tree), white (rice flour) and yellow (gurige seed).

Traditional activities

Cavale further said, the curation allowed space to reflect on the materials used in creating the art, its significance within the culture, the pigments used and its origins, the traditional activities of the community and its representation in the art, and the importance of women in the rituals of the Deevara's.

The exhibition also saw the launch of a coffee table book: Deevara Chittara-The Artform, the people, their culture, by renowned folklorist, poet, and Padma Bhushan awardee, Chandrashekhara Kambara.

"It is not just a coffee-table book. We want design schools, colleges and researchers to engage with the Deevara community and Chittara. So that the community gets its voice and Chittara some momentum," concluded Geetha.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MAY 15, 1975

2 Dead and 8 Injured in Train Accident

Bangalore, May 14: A Southern Railway employee and his teenage daughter were killed and eight other passengers were injured, four of them seriously, when five bogies of Miraj Bangalore Karnataka Express including its diesel engine, derailed between Birur and Nagavangala, 218 kms, from here in the early hours of today. Southern Railway waterman Venkatesh Kulakarni (58) of Rannibennur and his 18 year old daughter Manjula Bai, were killed. His wife Sarasamma (50), has been admitted in the Birur hospital, along with four others. The injured are Sarasamma, C. Muniswamy (50), a railway mechanic, K.C. Nair (38), a native of Goa, Krishna Setty , a timber merchant from Mandya, K.M. Ishak, a leather merchant of Birur, Mehboob Piran (40), a mutton merchant from Birur , S.K. Kambli (28) of Hubli and Sabjan (30).

Govt. not for Filing Joint Memo by Tenant & Landlord

Bangalore, May 14: The Government's thinking at the moment is not in favour of introducing the Joint memo to be filed by both the landlord and the tenant, under the Land Reforms Act as in Kerala, till it is satisfied that the tenant is aware of the implications of filing such a memo. Mr. B. Subbayya Shetty, Minister of State for Land Reforms, told pressmen to say that in the absence of such awareness the tenants were likely to be exploited

The Minister claimed that the Land Reforms Act was completely tenant-oriented.

Making a mark Indie band Fallen Letters. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Looking beyond luck

Vishal Naidu of Fallen Letters talks about the band's uphill struggle to reach where they have

Anurag Tagat

Progressive rock/metal band Fallen Letters formed in 2023 by vocalist, guitarist and keyboardist Vishal Naidu and guitarist Aditya Ramesh, are among the newest acts on the block.

At a time when it is all about going digital-first in the music industry, the band has found an audience globally and locally, with their debut song 'Remain A Memory' accruing a massive fan following on streaming platforms with over a 120,000 streams on Spotify and over 11,000 views on YouTube.

Their second single 'Relapse' carried forward that momentum, gaining over 18,000 views and while these might seem like smaller numbers compared to the industry-backed, trend-friendly hip-hop or pop artists, it is a big deal for an Indian progressive rock and metal band who are existing in a niche. Thankfully for them, they have a strong, loyal audience.

Vishal says, "Considering we were a new band that no one had heard of, even in the local scene, getting our first single out there was a serious challenge. There was no luck involved. It was hours and hours of focused effort from Aditya and me."

Having built the artiste promotion platform Sinusoidal Music and test-running it on Vishal's solo project, they had a "structured strategy" of finding curators, applying to playlists across the world and running Google and Meta ads for their 'Remain A Memory' music video.

"On top of that, we reached out to blogs and reaction channels to get people talking about the track. It's been a grind from day one, nothing happened overnight; and it is still as challenging. But it's rewarding to see that kind of response to something you've built from the ground up," he recalls.

Now, with a steady audience, the band are an EP old, *Forlorn Pages* came out in 2024, and are prepping for their debut album, *Mindfractures* to release in September this year.

The first glimpse arrives in the form of the single 'Distant Lines' (released on May 14 on streaming platforms) and a launch gig at Barbarous Sessions on May 16 at Fandom at Gilly's Redefined, alongside a diverse and eclectic lineup ranging from death metal favourites, Gutslit, prog band Lotus and thrash metal act Amorphia.

Vishal recalls that their new song draws from progressive band Katatonia's album *Last Fair Deal Gone Down,* but a quick listen can tell you this is also for fans of acts such as Opeth and Agalloch, plus the likes of A Perfect Circle and Deftones.

The vocalist adds, "Our drummer, Mukund, listens to a lot of black metal and Belphegor and Death, so I'm sure that has shaped our sound. Aditya is into similar bands as me, as well as some synthwave and death metal. Abhay loves his 2000s alt metal and Children Of Bodom; we all bring different flavors which adds variety to our tracks."

Fallen Letters wear their influences on their sleeves, more so on 'Distant Lines,' whose opening riff intro was crafted by guitarist Aditya sometime in 2024.

Vishal says, "From the very beginning, we knew we wanted this track to be a bit of a tribute; a love letter to the sound that shaped us. That early 2000s melancholic vibe is something we've always connected with, and 'Distant Lines' was our way of channeling that feeling; but with the weight and emotional tone that defines Fallen Letters."

That emotional urgency, for Vishal and the band, comes from "everyday struggles". He explains, "I believe everyone has a shadow self, and music is how I process and give shape to mine. 'Distant Lines' is open to interpretation, but at its core, it was sparked by the inner conflict between staying in a safe, familiar place versus pushing yourself toward something you are truly meant to do; even if that path looks uncertain or painful."

For their concert this week, Fallen Letters will play three new songs including 'Distant Lines' for the first time, all from their upcoming album. "We've curated a relatively heavier set this time because we're sharing the stage with Gutslit," Vishal says.

Following this show, the prep for their album continues. Vishal promises a tour around the launch of *Mindfractures* in September this year and wants it to be where Fallen Letters can level up their live production, from visuals to lighting. The vocalist says, "It's not just about playing the songs live; we want the audience to step into the *Mindfractures* world with us."

Barbarous Sessions Vol. 2 with Fallen Letters, Gutslit, Amorphia and Lotus takes place on May 16 at Fandom at Gilly's Redefined, Kormangala. Tickets, priced ₹699 onwards, are available on District.

CITYBEATS

Unfolding drama

MAY 17
The Little Paper Theatre presents a storytelling session by Ramya Srinidhi and Seema Karanth. Two stories based on popular children's books will be brought to life narrated in the enchanting Kamishibai style to young audiences. The event is open to children of all ages.
At 11am at Atta Galatta Indiranagar. Tickets priced at ₹300 are on BookMyShow.

Art in the city

MAY 18
Art Park Bengaluru, a cultural initiative started in 2014 to provide a platform for contemporary artists to showcase their work and engage with the public, will be held this weekend. Art Park was founded by SG Vasudev, a renowned modern and contemporary artist from Mysuru.
Art Park will be held at Bangalore International Centre (BIC), 11am to 5pm. Entry is free.

Creative craft

MAY 17
There will be an origami bookmark folding session by Pooja Ugrani and Sound of Paper that is open to anyone aged seven years and above. Pooja believes origami need not be a solitary, tabletop activity, but through collective efforts with paper, give rise to engaging installations.
At 5.30pm at Cafe, Atta Galatta. Tickets priced at ₹500, available on BookMyShow.

Diya Rose Denny

Crafting couverture chocolates and pastries since 2013, L'inoui opened a new store on May 5 at Jakkur, Bengaluru. Founded by Anusha Chowdaiah and her husband Lijesh Vincent, L'inoui aims to bring authentic chocolates made from 100 % cocoa butter and dairy to the Indian market. The store and chocolaterie offers premium chocolates, celebration cakes, croissants and fresh bakes.

Anusha says it all began in a small cafe in Belgium, where she had ordered hot chocolate. "It wasn't made using cocoa like in India; this was a block of chocolate on a stick which you had to stir. I took a sip and marvelled at how good it tasted."

Once she returned, Anusha began researching and found that chocolates in the Indian market are not actually chocolate at all. "Almost 95% of our mass chocolates are actually just compound chocolates. Over the 12 years, with Lijesh's experience in the supply chain market, we have mastered the recipes in such a way that we can give customers the best chocolate experience at a reasonable price."

L'inoui also imports a few raw ingredients such as dairy cream from France. Anusha says, "The reason we import it is because Indian cows don't produce sufficient fat required to make non-adulterated chocolate. So instead of substituting, we use 100% dairy in our products."

Standing out Anusha Chowdaiah and Lijesh Vincent, chocolates at the store. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sweet calling

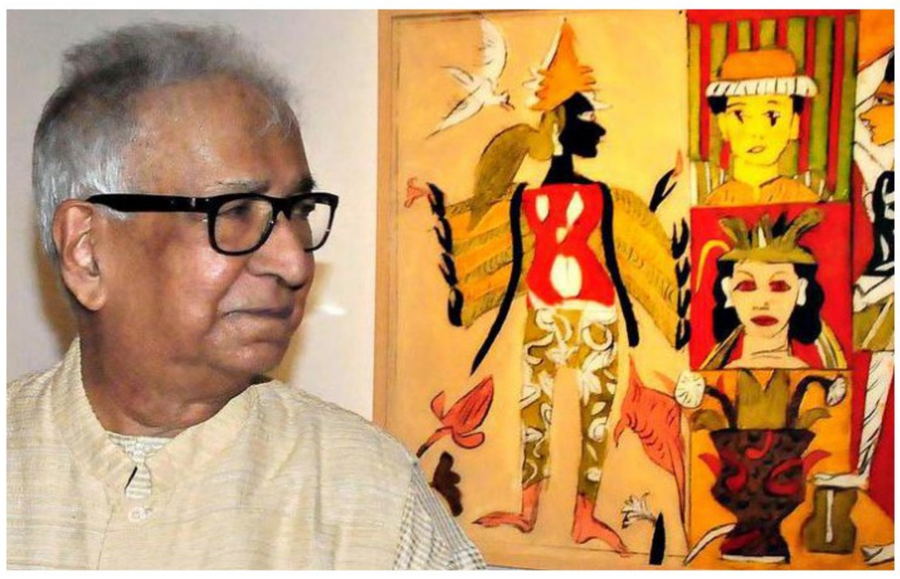
In 2013, L'inoui enterprise initially opened up stores in multiple locations such as Phoenix Market City, The Leela Palace, Hatworks Boulevard and the airport. "We knew it wouldn't be a runaway success rightaway, but we were doing well until COVID-19 hit."

During the pandemic, they shifted to online services through their website. "It worked well for us, and though we were delivering our products to more people, we've always wanted a proper experience outlet. With this store in Jakkur, we believe it can happen."

Anusha continues, "We will be announcing a particular time when we will be baking so those who walk into the store then will get freshly baked goodies right out of the oven."

L'inoui offers premium chocolates, pastries, celebration cakes, croissants and cookies. According to Anusha, some of their must-tries include, "the chocolate velvets, opera pastry, macaroons, hot chocolate and anything chocolatey such as our truffle cake."

Cost for two ₹800. At KCS Arcade, Jakkur. Call, 8401122000 for details



Colours on canvas KG Subramanyan at his show at the Durbar Hall Art Gallery in Kochi in 2014. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

One hundred years of relevance

Diya Rose Denny

The research-based retrospective *One Hundred Years and Counting* at the Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath (CKP), features Indian artist and Padma Vibhushan awardee, KG Subramanyan's wide collection of works. Curated by cultural theorist Nancy Adajania, the exhibition provides an insight not only into the artist's life, but also the context of his works and philosophies.

"KG Subramanyan was a versatile modernist whose works span nearly seven decades. In the setting of a fine arts college (CKP), I feel Nancy's research-oriented exhibition has benefitted our students the most. The art works are not arranged chronologically, but in a comprehensive manner which helps in educating students about this valuable part of art history," says Sheetal CP, Assistant Professor at the Art History Department, Chitrakala Parishath.

The exhibition includes elaborate write-ups to give social and political context to the artist's life, works and inspiration; it also includes the works of some of his students. On display at CKP are his works created with different media such as acrylic, watercolour and oil, sketches using pencil and pen, cutouts, paintings in children's books, wooden toys and murals, among others.

Arranged across four galleries, one can see how Subramanyan transitioned from traditional blending to cubist, post-cubist, and modernist styles over time. Sheetal says, "He is a relevant artist to study because he hasn't stuck to a particular style, but has explored different media and techniques."

Ritika S, a student pursuing her Masters in Printmaking at the college says, "KG Subramanyan was a sculptor, painter and muralist who experimented in a lot of things. I learned a lot by observing his works up close."

"Other than understanding art history, a lot of our students gained firsthand experience on how to set up for an exhibition. They worked closely with the curator and helped in framing the art pieces, measuring and even placing them on the walls," adds Sheetal.

Another highlight of this curation is that it exhibits pieces that were not included in its first iteration at Emami Art, Kolkata. For instance, Subramanyan's major paintings such as *Chinnamasta* (1991), *Girl with Cat Boy* (1991), *Birbhum Nativity* (1991), *Devi II and III* (2008) and *Madonna and Child* (2005), which have not been shown to the public in decades have been specially added to this show in Bengaluru.

There are also activities arranged by each department of the college to give children and other visitors to the exhibition, an immersive experience of KG Subramanyan's works. "Our graphics department is working on a novel inspired by KG Subramaniam's artworks, while the sculpture faculty is working on a project inspired by the toys he made. The painting faculty has initiated a project to interpret his works in a new way and the art history department is reading and interpreting his articles. There are also other activities for young visitors, inspired by his children's books and cutouts," Sheetal says.

Entry free. Until May 20, 11 AM to 7 PM. At Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, Kumarakrupa Rd. For more details contact, 8022261816

INBRIEF

TTD Board member sends legal notice to Tamil actor

Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) Trust Board member and BJP State spokesperson G. Bhanuprakash Reddy has slapped a legal notice on Tamil film actor N. Santhanam, alleging that a song in his upcoming film titled *DD Next Level* contains lyrics that offend the sentiments of Hindus. The protagonist uses the word 'Govinda' in a derogatory manner, Mr. Reddy said. The song in question, *Kissa 47*, is already circulating on YouTube and other social media platforms.

Kochi officials seal canteen serving stale food on trains

The health wing of the Kochi Corporation raided and sealed a catering unit reportedly serving food on trains, including Vande Bharat, near Kadavanthra, after finding large quantities of stale food and its kitchen in an unhygienic condition on Wednesday. The firm operating in the Elamkulam division of the Kochi Corporation had been under the health wing's scanner for a few months. It was found to be operating without a licence.

SIT grills retired IAS officer, Jagan's OSD in liquor scam

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) police on Wednesday questioned retired IAS officer and former Secretary in the Chief Minister's Office K. Dhanunjaya Reddy and former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's Officer on Special Duty (OSD) Krishna Mohan Reddy in the alleged liquor scam. With the Supreme Court directing the police not to arrest the two accused till May 16, Mr. Dhanunjaya Reddy and Mr. Krishna Mohan Reddy appeared before the investigating officers.

'I had highlighted AIADMK's links to Pollachi case convicts'

The DMK had said that the people of Pollachi were witnesses to the actions of the AIADMK govt., T.N. CM Stail recalls. He says that the accused in Kodanad case will be punished too

The Hindu Bureau
UDHAGAMANDALAM

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Wednesday recalled that he had highlighted the AIADMK's links to the convicts in the Pollachi sexual assault case when he was the Opposition leader and incumbent AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami was the Chief Minister.

In an interaction with reporters after his morning walk at the HADP Ground here, Mr. Stalin reiterated his praise for the verdict in case and said: "We had said that the people of Pollachi were witnesses to the actions of the previous regime..."

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin interacting with students at the HADP Ground in Udhagamandalam on Wednesday. M. SATHYAMOORTHY

He also recalled his promise of bringing all the accused in the case to book.

When asked about the Kodanad dacoity-cum-murder case, Mr. Stalin said the accused in this case would be punished as well.

According to him, it was evident to the people of Tamil Nadu why Mr. Palaniswami met Union Home Minister Amit Shah. While Mr. Palaniswami said he had sought funds from the Centre for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme and the Metro project, the people of the State were aware of the "lies" behind these claims, Mr. Stalin said.

The Chief Minister interacted with children and members of the public. Nilgiris MP A. Raja accompanied him.

CPI(M), Congress spar over removal of cross by Kerala Forest Dept.; case filed

The Hindu Bureau
IDUKKI

The removal of a cross by Forest department officials at Thommankuthu in Idukki has snowballed into a political tussle between the CPI(M) and the Congress.

According to officials, the Forest department removed a cross erected by the St. Thomas Church at Naranganam on April 12. A case was registered against 18 people, including Fr. James Aikkaramattom, vicar of the church, for reportedly erecting a cross in the reserve forest region.

Church authorities alleged that the Forest department is continuing its harassment against people. A team led by the Kaliyar range officer on Tuesday demolished a temporary prayer set-up arranged by the church on the spot where the cross was removed, they said.

'Targeted harassment'

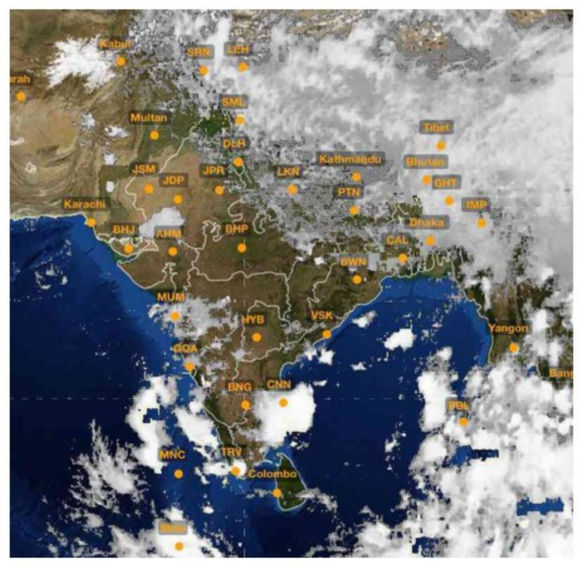
Kothamangalam diocese chancellor Fr. Jose Kulathur said the diocese is taking the issue seriously. "The Forest department is engaging in blasphemy and religious persecution with the silent approval of the government," he said.

Johny Ellikkal, treasurer of the church, said, "The parish submitted a memorandum to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan demanding action against the range officer. However, no action has been taken yet," he said. CPI(M)'s district secretary C.V. Varghese said, "The cross was erected on a land which has been owned by a local resident for more than 40 years and the Forest department has no right to remove it."

Idukki district Congress general secretary Bijo Mani claimed the government is trying to increase forest cover with the support of the department. Youth Congress activists waved black flags at Water Resources Minister Roshy Augustine at Vandiperiyar on Tuesday protesting against the incident.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy rain likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, West Bengal, coastal Andhra Pradesh, central Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Heat wave conditions likely at isolated places over Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	0.2	34.8	27.4	Kozhikode	0.1	35.2	27.0
Ahmedabad	—	39.1	28.0	Kurnool	4	38.7	26.2
Aizawl	—	32.8	21.8	Lucknow	—	40.9	26.0
Allahabad	—	42.5	27.8	Madurai	12	40.0	24.5
Bengaluru	35	31.3	19.9	Mangaluru	0.7	33.6	25.0
Bhopal	—	37.8	26.2	Mumbai	—	34.6	26.3
Bhubaneswar	—	38.3	27.9	Mysuru	18	34.0	21.0
Chandigarh	—	40.5	24.7	New Delhi	0.6	40.4	23.3
Chennai	—	36.1	29.9	Patna	—	40.9	28.4
Coimbatore	—	36.6	24.8	Port Blair	16	31.5	25.4
Dehradun	—	36.8	21.2	Puducherry	—	38.0	28.5
Gangtok	23	19.4	16.5	Pune	35.6	37.1	23.3
Goa	—	37.0	28.0	Raipur	—	41.1	29.3
Guwahati	15	32.1	23.8	Ranchi	—	37.8	24.5
Hubballi	—	34.0	24.0	Shillong	16	24.6	15.0
Hyderabad	—	37.4	25.2	Shimla	—	29.6	18.0
Imphal	3	30.4	19.9	Srinagar	—	27.6	11.0
Jaipur	0.6	41.8	26.2	Thiruvananthapuram	—	34.2	26.0
Kochi	6	33.0	25.4	Tiruchi	—	40.5	28.0
Kohima	—	22.4	17.2	Vijayawada	—	37.6	29.6
Kolkata	—	37.7	29.0	Visakhapatnam	—	35.9	30.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.10	..81	.16	...152	...129	
Bengaluru	...8	4	.33	35	...106	
Chennai	.14	..19	.32	92	80	
Delhi	...6	..82	.52	...113	...163	
Hyderabad	.10	..82	.56	79	73	
Kolkata	...6	..17	.23	74	76	
Lucknow	.11	..37	.58	...181	...178	
Mumbai	...3	..—	.24	...111	...158	
Pune	..—	..35	103	58	77	
Visakhapatnam	.14	..41	.27	71	95	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Agartala, Tripura recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 232 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Ramanagara, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 20

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

EDUCATION HUB

A Business Initiative

B.M.S. College of Engineering (BMSCE) launched UTSAV ANANTA 2025

B.M.S. College of Engineering (BMSCE) officially launched its renowned annual techno-cultural festival, UTSAV ANANTA 2025, on May 9th with a spectacular opening ceremony. The event was graced by Sandalwood stars Daali Dhananjaya, Sanjana Anand, and singer Ananya Bhat, as chief guests, Dr. B.S Ragini Narayan and Sri. Aviram Sharma as Guests of Honor, presided by Principal (BMSCE), Vice Principal (Admin) and Vice Principal (Academic) marking the commencement of South India's most eagerly awaited college festival. The Student Core Committee warmly welcomed distinguished guests, including faculty, alumni, sponsors, and hundreds of student participants from across India. With participation from over 200 colleges, the festival offers a vibrant mix of events spanning music, dance, theatre, literature, and technology. Major highlights included the much-anticipated Mr. UTSAV competition, an electrifying DJ Night and the high energy Whiplash Concert. The festival is a testament to the passion and creativity of BMSCE's student community. Organizers extended heartfelt gratitude to volunteers, mentors, and sponsors for their invaluable contributions in bringing this vision to life.

Together Against Cancer: MVJCE and Indian Cancer Society Organize Impactful 5K Marathon

In a heartfelt tribute to the memory of Ms. Anitha, an 8th-semester of AIML, student of MVJCE who battled with colon cancer, MVJ College of Engineering in association with Indian Cancer Society organized a 5K Marathon on Cancer Awareness. The event, held on the MVJCE campus from 6:30 AM to 8:00 AM, witnessed an overwhelming turnout of students, faculty, staff, and guests, all united in a common cause – to raise awareness and support the fight against cancer. The marathon, themed "Run for a Cause, Race for a Cure", was not just a race but a powerful expression of solidarity, resilience, and hope. Participants, whether walking, jogging, or sprinting, moved with purpose, each step symbolizing courage and the collective dream of a cancer-free future. Following the marathon, participants took part in a solemn Survival Walk around the campus, held in remembrance of those who lost their lives to cancer. The event was honored by the presence of the esteemed Chief Guest, Dr. M. S. Ganesh, a Surgical Oncologist whose motivational address set an inspiring tone for the morning. Adding further depth to the occasion were Dr. Vijay from the Indian Cancer Institute and Mr. Sathish Rao, a cancer survivor who had undergone surgery just three weeks prior. Mr. Rao shared his personal journey and underscored the significance of Prostate-Specific Antigen (PSA) testing for early detection and timely treatment of cancer. Their insights and experiences brought immense value and emotional resonance to the event.

Kristu Jayanti College hosts 10th National Educators Summit Empowering School Leaders with Indian Ethos and Excellence

The Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of Kristu Jayanti College (Autonomous), Bengaluru, inaugurated the 10th National Educators Summit on the theme "Vidya Vikas: Empowering School Leaders with Indian Ethos and Excellence". The summit was inaugurated by Shri Ramesh P. Menon, Regional Officer, CBSE, Ministry of Education, GOI, in the presence of Fr. Dr. Augustine George, Principal, KJC, alongside a gathering of eminent academic leaders from across India. In his keynote address, Shri Ramesh P. Menon highlighted the remarkable strides made by CBSE schools, particularly in Karnataka which alone houses over 1,500 CBSE institutions, a testament to the trust and confidence that students and parents place in the CBSE framework. Fr. Dr. Augustine George, in his presidential address, contextualized the summit as a platform for dialogue, collaboration, and capacity building among school leaders. He applauding the role of school principals and administrators. The Summit witnessed more than 150 delegates from all the states across the country.

Sri Sairam College of Engineering celebrated college day – Sparkle 2025

Sri Sairam College of Engineering celebrated its 28 th College Day on the 9 th of May, 2025, Friday. It was a grand celebration with the manner, the grandeur & the décor. The College had invited eminent personalities as the chief guests for the day. Mr. Prem, Lovely Star, Kannada Film Industry & his daughter Ms. Amritha Prem, the budding heroine. The formal session was a reverential session where the principal of the college, Dr. B. Shadaksharappa, welcomed the august gathering and it was followed by the presidential address delivered by the Chief Operating Officer of the college, Dr. R. Arun Kumar. Principal Dr. B. Shadaksharappa felt very happy in his welcome speech that his institute's students were doing well in research activities, winning many awards in competitions across the country, and excelling in short-term courses. Post this, chief guest, Mr. Prem in his speech, requested the students to love & respect their parents & spend valuable time with them. He also gave a collaborative melodious performance. The college souvenir 'Sai Spandana" was released by the dignitaries on the dais. They also honoured the members of Autonomous Under Water Vehicle team Varuna in this occasion. To sum it up, it was a spectacular show and the celebration was eventful and successful in every aspect. Laser Show was the highlight of the pleasant evening in the college campus. The programme was executed in the presence of other eminent persons, Trustee Sri. K Patel, & Chief Accounts Manager Sri. Gajendra, Prof. Anandaraju, Principal, SSPUC, all Heads of Departments, Teaching & Non-Teaching Staff.

FOHE 2025: Vidyashilp University Champions the Future of Higher Education - An Immersive Celebration of Vision, Innovation, and Interdisciplinary Excellence

Vidyashilp University proudly hosted its flagship annual event, FOHE - Future of Higher Education 2025, a remarkable celebration that brought together visionaries, educators, students, and industry leaders. The event showcased Vidyashilp's unwavering commitment to interdisciplinary excellence, innovation, and the future of transformative education. The honourable VC of Vidyashilp University, Prof. P.G. Babu, set the guiding vision for the day, emphasizing the University's commitment to fostering interdisciplinary education. Throughout the day, Vidyashilp's interdisciplinary ethos came alive as students showcased pioneering projects, blending data science, management, economics, psychology, design, and law. FOHE 2025 concluded on a high note, reaffirming Vidyashilp University's position as a pioneering institution nurturing bold, compassionate, and future-ready leaders – a place where innovation meets purpose, and every learner becomes a changemaker.

Improving Infrastructure in North Karnataka for Enhanced Convenience to Rail Passengers

"Our government is making unprecedented investments on thousands of infrastructure projects, including railways." - Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

Inauguration of
Gadag(Talakal)-Kushtagi (56 km) New Line
(Part of Gadag (Talakal)-Wadi New Line Project)

&

Flagging Off of
Train No. 17328 Kushtagi-SSS Hubballi Passenger Train

at Kushtagi Railway Station

Laying of foundation stone for
Sindhanur-Raichur (81 km) New Line
(part of Munirabad (Ginigera)-Raichur New Line Project)
at Sindhanur Railway Station

BENEFITS

- Improves direct rail access between Hubballi, Gadag, and Kushtagi, connecting rural and semi-urban regions to major railway junctions
- Boosts local economic growth and agriculture, while creating employment and development opportunities
- The new daily passenger train between Kushtagi and SSS Hubballi benefits commuters, students and workers by reducing travel time and transport costs.
- Establishes direct rail connectivity between Sindhanur and Raichur enhances transportation facility
- Encourages a shift from road to rail transport, reducing carbon emissions and supporting sustainable development
- Fulfilling long pending demand of local people of the region

By
V. Somanna
Union Minister of State for Railways and Jal Shakti

Venue: Kushtagi Railway Station at 10:30 AM Sindhanur Railway Station at 02:00 PM
Date: 15-05-2025

You are cordially invited

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PUB/109/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26

Trumpeting claims

Donald Trump's exaggerated claims undermine India's Kashmir policy

For the fifth time in as many days the U.S. President has claimed credit for bringing India and Pakistan back from "nuclear conflict" by mediating the May 10 ceasefire agreement, a claim that is puzzling and problematic. The claim of mediation has been rebutted by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), unofficially and more formally several times, with officials giving a timeline of how the talks had been held "directly" between the Directors General of Military Operation (DGMO) on a hotline, after the Pakistani DGMO proposed a stop to hostilities three days after Operation Sindoor began, and India acceded to the request. The government has said that Pakistan's request came after it received a jolt over India's strikes on Pakistani bases. It has also said that like many countries, the U.S. was engaged with the situation, and officials including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval had kept them apprised of India's position. Mr. Trump's assertions, backed by his administration, have been a cause for obvious outrage in Delhi, as they violate India's "long-stated" principle of not accepting third-party mediation on bilateral issues. His other comments, including an offer to mediate to resolve the Kashmir dispute and the equivalence he draws between India and Pakistan, also go against India's previously well-respected policies against the internationalisation of an "internal issue" and the hyphenation with Pakistan. Moreover, the MEA spokesperson has categorically denied that any trade-related issues were discussed between Indian and U.S. interlocutors, even as Mr. Trump has repeated that he had prevailed on India and Pakistan to put aside their "nuclear missiles" by threatening to stop trade with them if they did not, and promising to enhance trade ties if they did. That Mr. Trump has not once referred to India's core concerns on terrorism, appeared to swallow the Pakistani narrative on a "nuclear war", and even suggested a "dinner" between Mr. Modi and Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, trivialises the serious nature of the rupture between Delhi and Islamabad.

New Delhi must also analyse what lies behind Mr. Trump's obvious shift from the camaraderie on display with Mr. Modi just months ago. Are the comments explained as simply "Trump being Trump", or is he sending a more considered message on U.S. policy for the region? The extent of the China-Pakistan political and military cooperation may also have caused some alarm in the U.S. India must make it clear that its battle against cross-border terrorism from Pakistan cannot be brushed aside by any country, especially if it is one of India's closest partners, and co-founder of the Quad. The U.S. President's statements have not just challenged India's narrative or policy principles but also questioned New Delhi's credibility, and some tough messaging will be required to clear the air convincingly on the issue.

Restored faith

The Pollachi verdict brings closure to the rape survivors

Justice, if not unduly delayed, restores public faith in due process and the criminal justice system. The recent verdict in the Pollachi sexual assault case, where a Coimbatore Mahila Court convicted all nine accused and sentenced them to life imprisonment for the remainder of their natural lives, is a significant step in this regard. More so, because the entire case originated from a single plea for help from a young victim, which helped expose the involvement of multiple tentacles of a body of criminals. In February 2019, a 19-year-old college student reported to the Pollachi East police that four men had sexually assaulted her in a car near Pollachi 12 days earlier. The ensuing investigation revealed this complaint to be just the tip of the iceberg. As in the Prajwal Revanna case in Karnataka, the seizure of digital devices unveiled the full scope of the atrocities. Since 2016, a group of young men had been systematically preying on vulnerable young women, from disadvantaged groups, filming the assaults, and using these videos for further exploitation. The sheer depravity uncovered shocked the State's collective conscience. Public outrage intensified with the exposure of the accused's political connections. One was identified as the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) Pollachi town students' wing secretary (later expelled), while another, involved in an assault on the survivor's brother, held a local secretary position in Amma Peravai, an AIADMK-affiliated youth organisation. Faced with mounting public pressure, the State government initially transferred the investigation to the Crime Branch-CID and subsequently to the Central Bureau of Investigation.

Mahila Court Judge R. Nandhini Devi also directed the State government to provide a total compensation of ₹85 lakh to the survivors. The judge concurred with the prosecution's argument that the perpetrators had exploited their financial resources, physical power, political influence, and the incriminating videos to silence the survivors and perpetrate repeated assaults. She emphasised that she was clear that the judgment should "reflect the public abhorrence of the crime". As elections approach, politicians must resist the temptation to politicise this judgment, which not only delivered satisfactory justice but also challenged the misuse of political and financial clout. To foster a genuine feeling of security, the government must now assure its citizens an environment free from exploitation.

Operation Sindoor — a reshaping of confrontation

Harsh V. Pant

is Vice President, Observer Research Foundation, New Delhi

Ankit K.

is an Assistant Professor of Security Studies at the Rashtriya Raksha University, Gandhinagar, Gujarat

The recent India-Pakistan standoff presents a significant shift in the evolution of modern day warfare. It signifies a transformation in India's military engagement that transcends a traditional understanding of how wars are fought in South Asia and beyond. Operation Sindoor can no longer be seen as a bilateral dispute between the two countries but as an important example of how wars are fought globally, highlighting how technological innovation, strategic calculus, and information manipulation have fundamentally reshaped how military confrontation happens.

Drone warfare is the most revolutionary feature of this war. The use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) is a sharp departure from traditional operating strategies, as emphasised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his recent speech. In contrast to traditional air combat, which was based on costly and manned fighter jets, contemporary drone warfare is a case of deployment of asymmetric technology. Operation Sindoor has also demonstrated that conventional military force is now not about standalone and expensive platforms, but the capability to introduce swarms of inexpensive, expendable reconnaissance and strike vehicles in order to deluge the enemy.

Drones in the matrix

India's reported interception of Pakistan's attempted drone intrusion that reportedly involved between 300 to 400 Songar drones (Turkish-made) across 36 locations demonstrates the scale of this technological revolution. This approach has transformed aerial warfare from a high-stakes, high-risk engagement to a more calculated, probabilistic domain. The SkyStriker Kamekazi drones that India used, allowed India to probe defensive capabilities, gather intelligence about Pakistan's air defence system, and conduct precision strikes with minimal human risk and collateral damage. The proliferation of drone technologies in all modern conflicts underscores a normalisation of aerial warfare capabilities that was unimaginable just a decade ago.

Air defence has moved from fixed, hardware-oriented methods to layered, dynamic networks of defence. India's multi-layered air defence – that is composed of indigenous systems such as Akash and Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missiles (QRSAM) together with imported state-of-the-art systems such as Russia's S-400 and the Barak-8 (jointly developed by Israel and India) – is an example of the new strategic philosophy of a layered defence approach, as emphasized in a press release by Lieutenant General Rajiv Ghai, the present Director General of Military Operations. India's Akashteer system, that digitally merges radar information for real-time decision-making, is an evolutionary step in defensive capabilities. No longer are missile systems a concern but the development of an adaptive, smart defence network that is able to process and neutralise several simultaneous threats.

> The most important lesson is that contemporary warfare is now multi-dimensional

Information, deterrence and doctrine

Information warfare has emerged as perhaps the most sophisticated battlefield in the turn of the event. The confrontation has also exposed how disinformation has transformed itself from a mere propaganda tool to a strategic weapon at an unprecedented scale. Pakistan's information operations demonstrated a nuanced approach to psychological warfare, leveraging digital platforms to create alternative narratives and manipulate international and domestic perceptions, and attempting to fracture India's morale. By circulating doctored videos, fabricated claims and strategically crafted social media content, it was evident that countries can now wage psychological operations that extend far beyond traditional propaganda mechanisms.

The parallels with the modern wars such as the Israel-Palestine and Russia-Ukraine wars are quite evident. Both conflicts illustrate how modern warfare has transcended physical boundaries, transforming information spaces into multiple theatres of engagement. The ability to control narratives, manipulate international attention and create strategic ambiguity has become as crucial as traditional military capabilities. This represents a fundamental shift from kinetic warfare to a more nuanced form of conflict where perception management can be as decisive as military action.

Technological independence has become an imperative strategic necessity. India's show of indigenous platforms such as the Akash missile system and its current work on Project Kusha (a missile project) reflect a larger worldwide trend towards technological independence. It is not just a question of military prowess but also an all-encompassing strategy of minimising foreign dependency, generating economic opportunities through exports of defence products, and asserting technological credibility at the international level.

India's strategic deterrence approach has seen a qualitative transformation. The standoff with Pakistan has shown a sophisticated style of escalation management, where India has signalled strategic capabilities without necessitating full-scale war. This calibrated response model permitted the firm projection of military intent while leaving space for diplomatic flexibility and communication. It was a nuanced departure from traditional models of binary military engagement, where conflicts were normally framed as either total war or total peace.

There seems a visible shift in India's military warfighting doctrine, signalling a departure from its historically defensive posture to a more proactive, precision-oriented strategic approach. Perhaps the most evident and strategic shift after India's enunciation of its nuclear doctrine can be sensed in the Prime Minister's address on May 12. This doctrinal shift can be characterised by three critical elements.

First, the capacity to respond quickly to provocations with accurately measured force; second, the development of a comprehensive and layered defence and offence capability that combines indigenous technologies with cutting-edge imported systems; and third, an advanced escalation control posture that makes precision projection of military power possible without precipitating all-out war. This was reiterated in the May 12 speech by explaining how war has created 'new normal' in the 'new age warfare' for India.

Joint operations by the forces

Of note is a transformation in joint operations by the Indian armed forces, reflected in unprecedented levels of inter-service coordination that cut across the conventional organisational silos. The Integrated Air Command and Control System (IACCS) became the operational spine, synchronising action by the Indian Army, the Indian Navy, and the Indian Air Force in real time. It fulfilled inter-service integration from a theoretical concept and transformed it into an operational reality. Internal and external intelligence agencies delivered a unified support that facilitated strategic decision-making and precision targeting.

But the democratisation of warfare technologies also poses challenges and opportunities for India. With cutting-edge technologies becoming more accessible, Pakistan is also now capable of creating asymmetric warfare capabilities that can successfully counter the conventional military power of India. This transformation calls for a complete overhaul of military strategy, intelligence gathering, and defence planning. The most important lesson from this confrontation may be the realisation that contemporary warfare is inherently multi-dimensional. Victory is no longer measured in terms of territorial conquest or brute military power, but in terms of the capacity to combine technological, informational and psychological methods in an operational model.

Principled criminalisation and the police as pivot

Pupul Dutta Prasad

is an IPS officer with a PhD in Social Policy from the London School of Economics and Political Science. He is currently working as Professor of Practice, Lloyd Law College, Greater Noida, on deputation

Procedural law tends to receive less attention than substantive law in criminal law discussions. A major reason for this is that procedural criminal law is seen as dealing with the prosaic question of 'how', while the more dramatic question of 'what' crimes and punishments exist are associated with substantive criminal law. But, in reality, procedure is the beating heart of action. The recent Supreme Court of India ruling, in *Imran Pratapgarhi vs State of Gujarat*, is a reminder of how principled criminalisation is contingent on the adherence of the police to India's criminal procedure law, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS).

A straightforward way of thinking about criminalisation is in terms of the exercise of state power and duty. Criminalisation is about the state's power to name a wrong/harm as 'crime' and impose 'punishment'. It is, equally, about the state's duty to address wrongdoing by holding individuals accountable publicly and administering appropriate penalties. Criminal law in a constitutional democracy seeks to ensure that this enormous authority and responsibility is exercised properly.

Legal philosopher Victor Tadros suggests that the state's duty/power to criminalise wrongful conduct is part of a larger complex duty/power to criminalise, prosecute, convict, publicly condemn and punish the conduct. Within the broader normative context, criminalisation exists as part of social institutions and practices that address wrongdoing, such as families and private law. The claim, therefore (and importantly), is that criminalisation has a role independent of its effects that can be realised through the operations of the criminal law.

The basis

That said, the full force of criminalisation depends on criminal law and the workings of the criminal justice system. Given the powerful symbolic and concrete effects of criminalisation, legal scholars have sought to identify one (or more) 'master principle(s)' on the basis of which the kinds of behaviours that should be criminalised can be satisfactorily decided. Tatjana Hörnle makes a cogent case for three principles: conduct should be criminalised only if first, it is incompatible with important collective interests, second, it constitutes a violent attack against other persons, and third, it violates another person's right to non-intervention. These principles can be seen at the core of criminalisation under India's substantive criminal law, the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

> A recent ruling by the top court is a reminder of how principled criminalisation is linked to responsible actions and commitment by the police

Even if the substantive criminal law structures criminalisation in accordance with pragmatic and restrictive principles, some social groups and behaviours can be over-criminalised and others under-criminalised.

This is because beyond the conceptual labelling lies the actual labelling of acts and individuals as 'crime' and 'criminal' through the process of detecting, recording, arresting, charging, prosecuting, convicting and sentencing. Therefore, it is essential to pay equal, or possibly more, attention to the powers and functions of criminal justice agencies under the procedural law that governs the process.

The police as the focus

In this context, the focus inevitably shifts to the role of the police because they spearhead the process of criminalisation by detecting, registering, investigating crime, and, most conspicuously, by arresting suspects. There is general consensus that the police exercise considerable discretion in their daily work. As a result, the nature and the extent of criminalisation is largely shaped by how this discretionary authority is regulated and used. A case in point here is the possibility of overzealous policing of non-harmful wrongdoing (minor infractions) deflecting attention from harmful wrongdoing (serious offences).

A key provision in the BNSS is Section 173(3), which ostensibly confers more discretion on the police to decide which cases to investigate, but should actually be viewed as directed towards preventing unnecessary criminalisation due to police overreach.

Under the provision, when the officer in charge of a police station receives information relating to the commission of a cognisable offence punishable for three years or more but less than seven years, they need not immediately register a First Information Report (FIR) and investigate. Rather, they have the option to conduct a preliminary inquiry within 14 days to check whether a prima facie case exists to proceed in the matter.

The case in question

In *Imran Pratapgarhi*, the Court has interpreted such a preliminary inquiry as a positive obligation on the police where an offence covered under the provision is allegedly committed in the exercise of the fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression guaranteed by the Constitution. The Court quashed a first information report against Mr. Pratapgarhi, a Member of the Rajya Sabha, for posting what was alleged to be an inflammatory poem on a social media platform. The Court found that the police had gone overboard by launching an investigation without complying with the provision that enables them to first conduct a preliminary inquiry. Referring to Section 173(3), the judgment notes that '[t]he intention appears to be to prevent the registration of FIRs in frivolous cases....'

Principled criminalisation is no doubt central to the legitimacy of the state's power to criminalise. Also, it is as crucial for substantive law to be defined by judicious principles as it is for procedural law to be able to control the actual effects of criminalisation. But none of this works unless the police show a commitment to responsible criminalisation and are held accountable.

The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Clear the air

The verbal duel that has ensued ever since U.S. President Donald Trump has claimed credit for the understanding/ceasefire deal between India and Pakistan, is getting to be even more curious as India is equally vociferous in refuting America's claims ("India reasserts stand on Kashmir after U.S. claims", May 14).

We now learn that India too is going to retaliate on trade tariffs imposed by the U.S. India seems to be showing grit in dealing with the U.S. in the tariff war. However, I would have loved to have heard those assertions from the horse's mouth.

Govardhana Myneedu,
Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh

While peace-loving persons are happy that India and Pakistan have halted their hostilities, there needs to be an element of much caution on India's part.

The mystery about the ceasefire needs to end as well. The fact is that the U.S. official statement calls it a 'U.S. brokered ceasefire between India and Pakistan'. The U.S. President is also patting himself on his back for a 'long night of talks by the U.S. to mediate peace'.

Mani Nataraajan,
Chennai

Apt verdict

The ruling by the Mahila court in Coimbatore, in the Pollachi sexual assault case (May 14), marks a significant moment in the fight against sexual violence, bringing justice to the survivors after years of legal proceedings. The case is one that rocked not only the quiet town of Pollachi but also the entire State. The verdict is a strong message to offenders of such nefarious crimes that they cannot escape the law. The judgment has set the right standards for women's safety and has restored society's faith in the judicial system.

R. Sivakumar,
Chennai

Corrections & Clarifications

Due to a data input error, the India map in the article, "With a new Pope, an understanding of Catholicism in India", which appeared in the 'Data Point' section on May 13, 2025, was incorrectly presented with the contours of Sikkim State being shaded out. We apologise for the error. The map has been corrected in our e-paper editions. — The Editor

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The road to safety

Alok Mittal

Senior Indian Police Service officer in Haryana

Sarika Panda

Road safety expert

India is at a crucial juncture in mobility transformation, where economic growth and urbanisation bring both opportunities and challenges to road safety. With one of the world's largest road networks, India also carries the burden of having among the highest number of road traffic fatalities globally. In 2022, India recorded 1.68 lakh road accident fatalities. This translates to approximately 12.2 deaths per 1 lakh population. To put this in perspective, Japan and the U.K. have road traffic death rates of 2.57 and 2.61, respectively.

The economic repercussions of this are equally alarming. Road crashes cost India an estimated 3% of its GDP annually. This hampers national development and underscores the urgency for effective road safety measures.

Right to life

The foundation of all road safety efforts must rest on a fundamental constitutional principle: the right to safe road travel is an essential component of the right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution. Every citizen, whether a pedestrian, cyclist, or driver, has the right to move through public spaces without fear of injury or death. Recognising this right imposes a moral and legal duty on the state and society to treat road safety not as a privilege or technical matter, but as a human right and public good.

India's urban landscape is poised for significant transformation. By 2047, the urban population is expected to account for about 50% of the total population. This rapid urbanisation will be accompanied by a substantial rise in vehicle ownership. The growing urban and vehicular population necessitates people-centric interventions to ensure that streets remain safe, especially for vulnerable road users such as pedestrians, cyclists, the elderly, and public transport commuters.

At the heart of future-ready urban mobility lies the Safe System Approach, which places human vulnerability and error at the centre of road design. This philosophy acknowledges that people will make mistakes, but those mistakes should not result in fatalities or serious injuries. Prioritising pedestrian safety is fundamental under this approach. Urban streets must be redesigned with wider footpaths, dedicated cycling tracks, well-marked crossings, pedestrian refuge islands, reduced speed limits, and calming measures such as raised intersections. This system moves away from blaming individual road users and instead emphasises creating a forgiving and resilient road environment.

Recognising the urgency of the road safety crisis, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has launched a series of targeted initiatives. These include rectification of over 5,000 black spots on highways, mandatory road safety audits, and stricter safety norms such as airbags and anti-lock braking systems in vehicles. Electronic enforcement mechanisms such as speed cameras and CCTV surveillance have also been rolled out to improve compliance. In a major push to strengthen driver training, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari recently announced the setting up of driving training centres and vehicle fitness centres in every district. This bold initiative aims to ensure safer driving practices and reduce accidents caused by unskilled driving.

To meet the massive financial requirements of road safety improvements, innovative funding models must be explored. One such approach could be a nationwide mandate for all automobile manufacturers to channel their entire Corporate Social Responsibility funds towards road safety initiatives for the next 20-25 years. This investment, executed in collaboration with the Indian government, could support black spot elimination, public awareness campaigns, emergency trauma care, driver training, and road safety research. As primary stakeholders in the mobility ecosystem, auto-makers bear a shared responsibility for making Indian roads safer, and this long-term commitment can become a cornerstone of India's Vision Zero ambitions.

> Urban mobility must be reimagined to prioritise inclusivity and safety over speed

Road safety strategy

The four Es of road safety – engineering, enforcement, education, and emergency care – remain the cornerstone of an integrated road safety strategy. While enforcement and emergency care are gaining ground, there is an urgent need to strengthen infrastructure design and user education to prevent accidents before they occur.

Importantly, the World Bank Report 2020 outlines a strategic framework for enhancing road safety in India. It emphasises the need for substantial investment, estimating that an additional $109 billion over the next decade is required to achieve a 50% reduction in road crash fatalities. The report highlights that this investment will yield enormous social and economic returns by saving lives, reducing injuries, and improving mobility efficiency.

The iRAP Four States Report and other global analyses further confirm that investments in road safety deliver high returns. For every rupee spent on proven safety interventions, India can save up to four rupees in avoided crash costs, lives saved, and productivity gains.

India's roads must also become kinder to the most vulnerable users – pedestrians, cyclists, and children. Roads are not just conduits for vehicles but shared public spaces that reflect our civic values. Urban mobility must be reimagined to prioritise inclusivity and safety over speed. As we envision Viksit Bharat 2047, the path ahead must be paved with accountability and data-driven policy. Road safety is not a luxury; it is a prerequisite for sustainable and equitable development.

Turbulent, but afloat

For the Congress in Karnataka, the last two years have been a mixed bag

STATE OF PLAY

Nagesh Prabhu
nagesh.p@thehindu.co.in

The Congress government in Karnataka is all set to mark its second anniversary on March 20 with a mega event in Hosapete in north Karnataka.

It has been an eventful two years for the man in the hot seat. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has adroitly managed the State's economy, including the cost of funding the Congress' five 'guarantees'; handled the social welfare agenda; and met developmental and infrastructural needs even if this has meant raising the prices of fuel and liquor to mop up additional resources. His government has rolled out programmes and increased allowances to several segments of society. It has spent close to ₹80,000 crore on the five 'guarantees', including free bus rides for women. It has also successfully conducted a Global Investors' Meet this year and exceeded its target by netting ₹10 lakh crore worth of investments.

But the Chief Minister has also weathered many a political storm, including attempts to usurp his post, factionalism in the Congress, alleged scams, and the combined onslaught of the Bharatiya Janata Party and Janata Dal (Secular). His series of troubles began with the alleged multi-crore scam in the Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation, which is still under investigation by the Enforcement Directorate. This was followed by the alleged illegal allotment of 14 sites (now surrendered) by the Mysore Urban Development Authority (MUDA) to his wife Parvathi; political tensions over the State Backward Classes Commission's Socio-Economic and Educational Survey; and the problem of factionalism. On many occasions, Karnataka also faced social tensions, but the government handled these situations firmly and thwarted attempts to foment caste and communal strife.

After its relentless campaign in the 2023 Assembly elections regarding the '40% commission' corruption charges against the previous BJP government, the Congress, ironically, now finds itself tainted in the same manner and seemingly unable to leap ahead on the developmental front. The government set up a judicial inquiry commission to probe the alleged commission in awarding public contracts during the BJP government's tenure. But so far, no conclusive evidence has been found barring some serious lapses and irregularities in COVID-19 management.

Meanwhile, the government has also been on a collision course with Raj Bhavan and the Narendra Modi-led Union government. It strongly protested against Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot for sanctioning the prosecution of Mr. Siddaramaiah in the MUDA land issue, even while he has not sanctioned prosecution of JD(S) leader and Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy despite repeated requests by the Karnataka Lokayukta. The government also faulted the Governor for withholding Bills passed by the State legislature and for reserving for the President's assent its Bill providing a 4% quota for Muslims (under the Other Backward Classes quota) in public contract works. The Congress dispensation has also often attacked the Modi regime for denying fair share in the devolution of taxes to Karnataka, cutting grants under the 15th Finance Commission, and delaying clearances for long-pending irrigation projects.

The government has waded through several law and order issues too. In 2024, a bomb exploded in a café in Bengaluru. The same year, a student, Neha Hiremath, in Hubballi, was stabbed to death; recently, a Hindutva activist, Suhas Shetty, in Mangaluru, was murdered. A few borrowers who were unable to repay loans taken from unregistered microfinance institutions died by suicide. The State Police have also allegedly misused privileges in the gold smuggling case involving actor Ranya Rao.

Amid speculation over a possible leadership change, the factions loyal to Mr. Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar have been involved in shadow fighting in a bid to undermine each other for the last two years. Ultimately, the intervention of All India Congress Committee chief Mallikarjuna Kharge forced the warring factions to calm down, at least for the time being.

With India and Pakistan agreeing to a ceasefire, the government has decided to go ahead with its 'Sadhana Samavesha (achievements rally)' on May 20. But going forward, it certainly needs more peace between its factions.

Value of new govt. projects announced hits a six-year high

As projects of considerable value were dropped in previous years, data should be interpreted carefully, say experts

DATA POINT

Samreen Wani

New investment projects worth ₹19.8 lakh crore were announced in the March 2025 quarter, the highest in at least the last six years. Though most of the announcements were made by the private sector, pledges from the government sector saw a five-fold increase in the same quarter compared to the December 2024 quarter. While a flurry of new project announcements signals confidence in the business and economic environment, past data shows that not all projects may come to fruition. Data from previous years shows that projects of considerable value were dropped, often exceeding the value of the projects completed.

The private sector announced new projects worth over ₹13.4 lakh crore in the March 2025 quarter. This is nearly twice of what was announced in the previous quarter. If only new projects in the private sector are considered, the March 2023 quarter had recorded even higher numbers. In the government sector, new project announcements hit a six-year high at ₹6.4 lakh crore in the March 2025 quarter **(Chart 1)**.

Aditi Nayar, chief economist, ICRA Limited, said that the surge in new project announcements in the March quarter was partly aided by global investor summits across four States.

Suranjali Tandon, Associate Professor at NIPFP, said that the investments surge was probably a response to a pick-up in multiple indicators of the economy. "Perhaps there was some turning of the cycle. With the COVID years behind them, companies were sitting on [cash] reserves and this was seen as a time to put in more money in projects," she said.

Madan Sabnavis, chief economist at the Bank of Baroda, explained that a bump in announcements is normal in the final quarter as this is the time when companies plan for the coming year and private investment normally tends to follow government capital expenditure (capex) in infrastructure-related sectors. He said, "As the elections [Lok Sabha 2024] held back the latter (government investment) in the first half of the year, there was a tendency for compensation to take place in Q4. If one looks at the sectors which have accounted for this big increase, it is power. There is a lot of focus on renewables, which is what is getting reflected here."

A sector-wise breakdown of the new project announcements shows that projects valued at almost ₹9 lakh crore were announced for the electricity sector in the March 2025 quarter.

The Reserve Bank of India revised India's growth projection for FY26 to 6.5% in April from 6.7% earlier. The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank also cut India's growth projections for FY26 to a much lower rate of 6.2% and 6.3%, respectively.

Professor Tandon said, "The government is conscious of the revisions in growth forecasts. So it is possible that investments are being announced to support capex and overall growth."

Sabnavis added, "Also some PSUs, which would also get classified under the government, had announced their plans on expansion, which added to the increase."

As noted earlier, a surge in investment announcements does not necessarily mean that the projects will all come to fruition. Government projects worth about ₹7.6 lakh crore were dropped in FY25 compared to projects worth ₹8.5 lakh crore in the year before, whereas projects worth about ₹2.9 lakh crore were completed in FY25 which was half of what was completed the year before **(Chart 2A)**. In the private sector, projects worth over ₹10 lakh crore were dropped in FY25, a 10% increase compared to the previous year, while projects just under ₹3 lakh crore were completed in the same year **(Chart 2B)**. The value of projects dropped in the post-pandemic years remains higher than in the pre-pandemic years, both in the government and private sectors.

Sabnavis explained that abandoning projects is not uncommon as projects are implemented over a 2-5 year period. New investment announcements are only intentions, he said. "Abandoning a project happens when it is not feasible for the company to go ahead with it because of clearances or budgets shows that it is no longer viable. Often, demand conditions change, which causes these projects to be shelved or dropped," he said.

Nayar added, "Nearly 90% of the dropped projects in FY25 are on account of lack of information. A project is marked as 'lack of information' when there is no information available on it for a reasonably long period of time."

Meanwhile, the gestation period of investment projects – the ratio that measures the time taken to spend ₹1 billion on projects – has increased from 16.5 months in FY19 to over 19 months in FY25. The gestation period for the private sector was higher than for government projects **(Chart 3)**. Prof. Tandon said that this is a reflection of lower productivity and/or delays in capex projects.

Will the coming quarters sustain the investment momentum recorded in March 2025? Sabnavis said that India is less vulnerable to the tariffs imposed by the U.S. And since a negotiation is ongoing between India and U.S., the impact of the tariffs will be muted.

"Our view is that GDP growth can be affected by around 0.2%. This said, specific sectors may have to roll back on their investment in case substitute markets are not leveraged. Hence, while there can be a slowdown in some export-oriented sectors, investment will still be driven more by domestic demand conditions," he said.

Project tracker

The data for the charts were taken from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy

Chart 1: The chart shows the value of new investment projects announced by the government and the private sector in each quarter (in ₹ lakh crore)

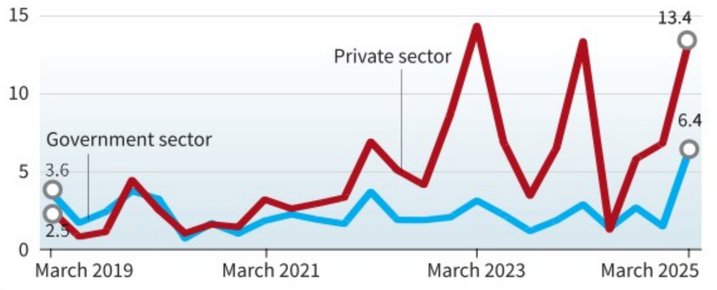


Chart 2: The chart shows the value of government (2A) and private sector (2B) investment projects completed and dropped (in ₹ lakh crore)

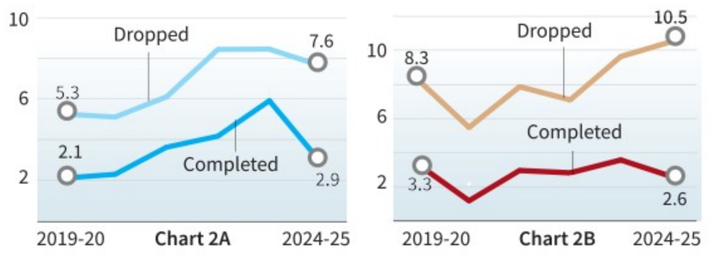
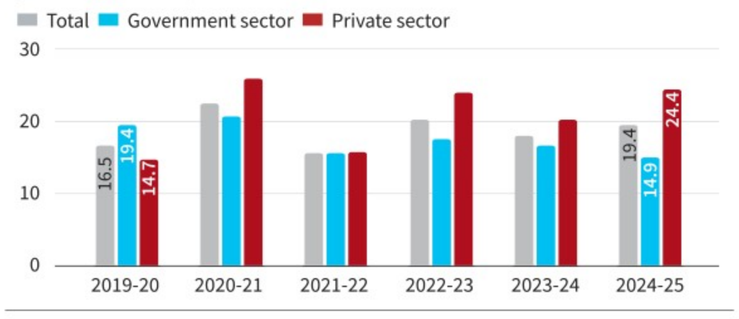


Chart 3: The chart shows the gestation period of investment projects by the government and the private sector (in months)



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MAY 15, 1975

Cloud of uncertainty over Montreal games

Quebec, May 14: A cloud of uncertainty hung over next year's Montreal Olympic Games following the announcement by Prime Minister Robert Bourassa that he was ready to sacrifice the Games if that is what was required to restore social order in Quebec.

Confronted by yet another strike by workers building Olympic facilities, Mr. Bourassa told reporters outside the National Assembly that the continued delays in the construction of necessary facilities for the 1976 Games were serious and could not continue much longer or the Olympics would be "seriously jeopardised".

He rejected a suggestion that the Games be postponed until 1977, saying "either they will be held in 1976, as I am convinced they will or they will not be held at all."

But he said, "social order comes before everything, all events no matter how important they are", adding his Government is ready to meet all its responsibilities in that regard.

A major strike on the Olympic facilities two months ago first raised the possibility that the Games might not take place in Montreal. Construction on the main stadium, which is supposed to be completed next March is lagging far behind schedule.

Yesterday, Mr. Bourassa's Liberal Government proposed a motion in the province's National Assembly invoking emergency procedures to allow the Assembly to give top priority to legislation which would put four Quebec Federation of Labour (QFL) unions under trusteeship.

Introduction of the Bill has sparked walk-outs by about 5,000 construction workers at the Olympic site in Montreal and Louis Laberge.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MAY 15, 1925

Storm in the bay

Madras, May 14: Enquiries made by the Associated Press of India at 9:30 p.m., with regard to the storm situation in the Bay shows that the Madras Port is threatened with a storm to-night.

The cautionary storm danger signal (No. 6) is now hoisted on the Madras Harbour Mast. All the vessels in the Madras Harbour touching the wharf have been shifted to the moorings and all the boats have been ordered to the Boat Basin.

From Page One

Turkish, Chinese state media accounts barred

"Our fight is against terrorism from Pakistan but (Turkish) President (Recep Tayyip) Erdogan has been totally silent on terrorism. India wants to know what Turkiye's position on terrorism is," the official said, adding that Turkish and the Chinese news outlets had been downplaying the terror attack in Pahalgam, which India has described as the "original escalation".

"A war room has been created where inputs are taken from various agencies and Ministries of the government on misleading content and news. Action is being taken only when certain outfits are seen indulging in spreading misleading news over a sustained period of time, and appear biased in their content," an official source privy to the Centre's internal discussions on international news coverage said.

India had been observing the "disappointing" remarks by the Turkish leadership, alongside silence over Pakistan-based terrorism behind the April 22 attack that resulted in the death of 26 civilians, the official said.

TRT was blocked soon after Mr. Erdogan, in a detailed message to Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, expressed support for Pakistan, referring to Turkiye-Pakistan relations as a "brotherhood" and "one of the best examples of true friendship".

"We will continue to be by your side in good and bad times, as we have in the past, and [will do so] in the future. Through you, I greet our friendly and brotherly Pakistan with my most heartfelt affection. Pakistan-Turki *dosti* (friendship) *zindabad*," Mr. Erdogan had said.

Mr. Sharif had responded in Turkish and English on their "long-lasting, time-tested, and abiding fraternal ties".

India 'pushing back' Bangladeshi nationals

The letter by the Bangladesh Ministry on May 8 also "raised concern over "people being pushed into the country", as per the daily.

According to another government official, as many as 295 Bangladeshis were "deported" in 2024, and this year till April 30, around 100 Bangladeshi citizens have been deported and handed over to the Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB).

The External Affairs Ministry is yet to comment on the subject.

On Wednesday, Rajasthan Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Jogaram Patel said in Jaipur that about 1,000 suspected Bangladeshi nationals had been identified as residing in different parts of the State. "The first batch of 148 Bangladeshi nationals was transported to Jodhpur and flown to Kolkata on Wednesday. From there, they will be deported to Bangladesh," Mr. Patel said.

Temporary detention facility

According to sources, most of the detainees brought to Jodhpur were from Sikar district. The Village Development Officers' Training Centre in Jodhpur has been temporarily converted into a detention facility for the Bangladeshi nationals. Mr. Patel said a similar deportation process would be followed for pushing back the foreign nationals in the coming days. On May 10, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said the government had decided to implement the "push back" mechanism to check infiltration instead of going through the legal route. "Infiltration is a big issue. We have now decided we will not go through the legal process. Earlier, decision was to arrest a person and then bring him to the Indian legal system... Earlier also we used to arrest 1,000-1,500 foreigners...they must be sent to jail and then they are produced before a court of law. Now, we have decided that we will not bring them inside the country, we will push them," Mr. Sarma said.

On concerns raised by Bangladesh, the government official quoted above said, "These are their citizens and they should accept them." After political changes in Bangladesh in 2024, the States started a crackdown on foreigners illegally staying in the country. The momentum increased after the Pahalgam terror attack, officials said.

(With inputs from Mohammed Iqbal in Jaipur)

Justice B.R. Gavai takes over as CJI for a six-month tenure

His time in office could see important hearings in the challenges to the Places of Worship Act and the Waqf (Amendment) Act; he has been part of many impactful decisions at the Supreme Court, including upholding of abrogation of Article 370

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai was sworn in by President Droupadi Murmu as the 52nd Chief Justice of India at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on Wednesday.

He took his oath of office, pledging his commitment to uphold the Constitution and faithfully discharge duties, in Hindi.

Chief Justice Gavai acknowledged the applause with folded hands, shook hands with Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal, Home Minister Amit Shah, other dignitaries and family members sitting in the foremost row, including his immediate predecessor, Justice Sanjiv Khanna.

The Chief Justice of India touched his mother's feet. Mr. Modi was also seen going up to the Chief Justice's mother to greet her.

Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts, both sitting and retired, were present at the ceremony.

Chief Justice Gavai has a tenure of over six months till November 23. He was elevated as a judge of the Supreme Court on May 24, 2019 from the Bombay High Court.

Justice Gavai is the first Buddhist Chief Justice of India. He was born on November 24, 1960 at Amravati. He joined the Bar on March 16, 1985. Justice Gavai's father, Ramakrishna Suryabhan Gavai, also known as 'Dadasaheb', was a former Governor of Bihar and a prominent Dalit leader. Known as a bold and decisive judge who speaks his mind, Chief Justice Gavai will have a tenure that may see important hearings in the challenges to the Places of Worship Act and the Waqf (Amendment) Act of 2025.

As a Supreme Court judge, he was part of many impactful decisions at the Supreme Court, including the upholding of abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution and the striking down of the electoral bonds scheme.

He was part of a Constitution Bench which held that States have a right to sub-classify Scheduled Castes.

He headed the Bench which had ordered the release of Perarivalan, a convict in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case.

As a lawyer, he had practised independently in the Bombay High Court from 1987 to 1990. After 1990, he appeared mainly before the Nagpur Bench of the Bombay High Court. He had practised in Constitutional and administrative law, and was standing counsel for the Municipal Corporation of Nagpur, Amravati Municipal Corporation and Amravati University.

He was elevated as Additional Judge of the Bombay High Court in 2003 and became a Permanent Judge in November 2005.

In high office: Justice B.R. Gavai takes oath as the 52nd Chief Justice of India during the swearing-in ceremony, at Rashtrapati Bhavan, next to President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday. PTI

Bench to hear pleas against Waqf law today

NEW DELHI

A Bench of Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai and Justice Augustine George Masih is scheduled to hear the challenge to the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, on Thursday. The case last came up before a three-judge Special Bench led by Chief Justice Gavai's predecessor, Justice Sanjiv Khanna, on May 5. Justice Khanna had at the time expressed reluctance to continue hearing the case, saying he had very little time till his retirement on May 13. The case was then posted on May 15.

India should sanction Turkiye, says RSS outfit

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM), the economic wing of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, on Wednesday condemned Turkiye's military support to Pakistan. The organisation urged the government to impose economic sanctions on the country for its "unholy alliance" with Pakistan and suggested a ban on flights and tourism.

The SJM appealed to the people of India to boycott nations actively helping Pakistan build its offensive capabilities and urged the citizens to boycott Turkish products, travel, and cultural exports as a mark of solidarity with the soldiers and national interest.

"The principle of putting nation first must guide our trade, investment, and diplomatic relationships. Let us choose self-reliance over strategic dependence on nations that empower our adversaries," said Ashwani Mahajan, national co-convener of the SJM.

The SJM's appeal came amid tensions between India and Pakistan following their recent military confrontation after the Pahalgam terror attack. The conflict saw Pakistan unleash swarms of Turkish drones to target Indian military facilities.

Indian team in UN to present evidence on Pahalgam attack

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

An Indian technical team has reached New York to present evidence regarding the Pahalgam terror attack to the monitoring team of the 1267 Sanctions Committee that decides on global listing of terrorist groups, official sources said on Wednesday.

The technical team will apprise the 1267 Sanctions Committee of The Resistance Front's role.

Looking for a ban

India has accused The Resistance Front (TRF) of carrying out the deadly terror attack in Pahalgam on April 22, and it is expected that the meeting with the monitoring team will be the first step towards getting the TRF banned under the 1267 Committee.

"An Indian technical team is in New York. They are interacting with the Monitoring Team of the 1267 Sanctions Committee and other partner countries in the UN. They will also be meeting with the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED)," an official source said.

The TRF, founded in 2019, began as a little-known anti-India front that opposed entry of "outsiders" to Kashmir and over the past few years, it has come under the focus of the Indian authorities. The group has been described as an off-shoot of the Pakistan-based terrorist organisation Lashkar-e-Taiba that India has accused of carrying out a large number of terror strikes both inside and outside Kashmir.

HC orders FIR against M.P. Minister over remarks on Col. Sofiya Qureshi

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL

The Madhya Pradesh High Court on Wednesday directed the State Police to register a first information report (FIR) within four hours against State Cabinet Minister Vijay Shah for allegedly making inflammatory remarks against Indian Army officer Colonel Sofiya Qureshi.

Justice Atul Sreedharan took *suo motu* cognisance of the matter following media reports, and directed Director-General of Police (DGP) Kailash Makwana to file the FIR under Section 196 (promoting enmity between groups) and Section 152 (act endangering sovereignty, unity, and integrity of India) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

"*Prima facie*, the statement of the Minister that Colonel Sofiya Qureshi is the 'sister of the terrorists' who carried out the attack of Pahalgam encourages feelings of separatist activities, which thereby endangers the sovereignty and integrity of India," Justice Sreedharan observed.

> The leadership of the Bharatiya Janata Party is very sensitive... He [Vijay Shah] was warned and told no one has the right to say such things
>
> **V.D. SHARMA**
> Madhya Pradesh BJP president

During a public event on May 12, Mr. Shah reportedly said, "Those people (terrorists) who had wiped out the *sindoor* of our sisters... we avenged these people by sending their sister to destroy them."

While the Minister did not initially name Colonel Qureshi, he later identified her in a clarification, stating that his comments had been "distorted".

The High Court termed the remarks "dangerous", noting that such statements now appear to target personnel of the armed forces. "Now, they have started reaching out to the armed forces of this country," Justice Sreedharan remarked.

Political reactions poured in from across party lines. Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh questioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi's silence, calling the remarks "disgraceful" and a reflection of a "diseased mindset".

Similar criticism was voiced by leaders including Sachin Pilot, Y.S. Sharmila, Harish Rawat, Bahujan Samaj Party supremo Mayawati, and Trinamool Congress MP Sagarika Ghosh.

State Congress leaders, including MPCC chief Jitu Patwari, filed police complaints across multiple cities, while party workers held demonstrations in protest.

Amid mounting pressure, sources in the Chief Minister's Office confirmed that Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders were deliberating possible disciplinary measures against Mr. Shah.

BJP State president V.D. Sharma said the party leadership had taken cognisance and warned the Minister, affirming that Colonel Qureshi is "the daughter of the country" and worthy of national pride.

"The leadership of the Bharatiya Janata Party is very sensitive. If any such incident happens, the party immediately undertakes the necessary review. He was warned and told no one has the right to say such things," Mr. Sharma told presspersons.

A senior BJP functionary informed *The Hindu* that Mr. Shah was summoned by the party's State general secretary (organisation), Hitanand Sharma, at the BJP headquarters in Bhopal on May 13.

"He was sternly instructed to refrain from making such statements. The Minister also issued an apology," the leader said.

Many travellers cancel bookings to Turkiye, Azerbaijan

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Amid a call to "boycott" travel to Turkiye and Azerbaijan, tour aggregators have reported widespread cancellations in holiday bookings to both these countries from India.

In response to the "support" extended to Pakistan by the two countries, "boycott" calls swept social media after Operation Sindoor was carried out.

Aftermath of conflict

Tour aggregator MakeMyTrip said cancellations in bookings to Turkiye and Azerbaijan jumped by 250%. EaseMyTrip reported a 22% increase in cancellations for Turkiye, and 30% for Azerbaijan.

"Indian travellers have expressed strong sentiments over the past one week, with bookings for Azerbaijan and Turkiye decreasing by 60%, while cancellations have surged by 250% during the same period," a MakeMyTrip spokesperson said.

"We have already discontinued promotions and offers on our platform to discourage tourism to these two destinations," he said.

"There is a preference shift when it comes to choosing a destination. Bookings to impacted areas have halted due to post-ceasefire uncertainties, while unaffected airports and regions maintain normal operations without major disruptions," Rikant Pittie, CEO and co-founder, EaseMyTrip, said.

Effect on tourism: 'Boycott' calls swept social media after Turkiye 'supported' Pakistan during Operation Sindoor. FILE PHOTO

"At EaseMyTrip, we maintain cautious optimism while prioritising traveller safety. We encourage all customers to only refer to reliable information sources, and exercise prudence when making international travel plans. We are currently advising against non-essential travel to affected regions, and have released a formal travel advisory," Mr. Pittie said.

"Recent geopolitical tensions are substantially affecting travel patterns, with travellers increasingly choosing other destinations, including Georgia, Serbia, Greece, Thailand, and Vietnam," he said.

Travel company Cox and Kings had on May 9 issued a statement on its decision to temporarily pause all new travel offerings to Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, and Turkiye from India.

On non-essential travel

"This decision is driven by our commitment to uphold principles that matter deeply to us and the people of our country. We also advise Indian travellers to exercise discretion and avoid any non-essential travel to these destinations until there is greater clarity and alignment in the broader geopolitical environment," Karan Agarwal, director, Cox & Kings, had said.

JNU suspends MoU with Turkiye varsity

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Jawaharlal Nehru University on Wednesday said that due to national security considerations, a memorandum of agreement with Inonu University, Turkiye, stood suspended till further notice.

In a statement, JNU Vice-Chancellor Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit said that the MoU was like the other academic agreements that JNU had signed for mutual cooperation in research and teaching. "JNU has suspended the MoU due to national security considerations as JNU stands with the nation and the armed forces, many of whom are JNU alumni," Ms. Pandit said.

The MoU was inked on February 3 for a period of three years. Inonu University, at Malatya in Turkiye, had entered into the academic partnership with JNU as part of efforts to boost cross-cultural research and student collaboration. There were also plans for student and faculty exchange programmes.

Currently, JNU has MoUs with 78 universities across the world.

(With PTI inputs)

Govt. notice to e-commerce firms over sale of Pak. flags

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Consumer protection regulator CCPA has issued notices to several e-commerce companies, including Amazon India and Walmart-owned Flipkart, directing them to remove merchandise featuring Pakistani flags from their platforms, Consumer Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi said on Wednesday.

The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) also sent notices to Ubuy India, Etsy, The Flag Company, and The Flag Corporation, saying the sale of Pakistani flags and related merchandise would not be tolerated.

"Such insensitivity will not be tolerated. E-commerce platforms are hereby directed to immediately remove all such content and adhere to national laws," Mr. Joshi said in a social media post. The Minister's post, however, did not specify which laws were being violated by selling the merchandise.

India and Pakistan were engaged in a conflict earlier this month following the killing of 26 persons by terrorists in Pahalgam.

Indigenous weapon systems highly effective, says Centre

All offensive strikes on Pakistan military targets were executed without loss of Indian assets, underscoring the effectiveness of the surveillance, planning, and delivery systems, says statement; situation along the western borders remains calm

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

The performance of indigenous defence systems against Chinese and Turkish weapon systems stood out during Operation Sindoor, government and military officials have said. For instance, the indigenous Akash short-range surface-to-air systems proved their capability, while the Chinese HQ-9 SAMs deployed by Pakistan failed to effectively intercept the precision-guided munitions launched by India.

"All offensive strikes on Pakistan military targets were executed without loss of Indian assets, underscoring the effectiveness of our surveillance, planning, and delivery systems," the Press Information Bureau (PIB) said on Wednesday about India's offensive against Pakistani military installations on May 10.

"The use of modern indigenous technology, from long-range drones to guided munitions, made these strikes highly effective and calibrated," it said.

Show of strength: Akash short range surface-to-air systems proved their capability during Operation Sindoor, officials say. FILE PHOTO

The Indian Air Force bypassed and jammed Pakistan's Chinese-supplied air defence systems, completing the mission in just 23 minutes, demonstrating India's technological edge, the statement said.

In a social media post, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's office said: "India's defence sector is growing stronger than ever, driven by the spirit of Atmanirbhar Bharat. Defence exports have jumped from ₹686 crore in 2013-14 to ₹23,622 crore in 2024-25 – a 34-fold rise."

Several countries in southeast Asia, west Asia and Africa have expressed interest in the Akash and BrahMos systems among others, an official noted. "The recent episode is a validation of the performance of these systems in real-time. We anticipate further interest in Indian systems," he said.

Over the course of five days since Operation Sindoor was launched on the night of May 6-7, the country's air defence network proved its capability and resilience as Pakistan launched hundreds of drones in waves, unmanned combat aerial vehicles and missiles inclining high-speed ones. Most of them were shot down, and only a few made an impact.

The Indian armed forces struck several air defence radar sites, among others, disabling the HQ-15 SAM system in Lahore. The air defence networks of the Army and the IAF were backed by the Akashteer air defence and the Integrated Air Command and Control Systems (IACCS), respectively.

Operation Sindoor also produced concrete evidence of hostile technologies neutralised by the Indian systems – with the recovery of pieces of Chinese PL-15 air-to-air missiles, Turkish-origin UAVs, long-range rockets, quadcopters and commercial drones, the PIB statement noted. "These were recovered and identified, showing that despite Pakistan's attempts to exploit advanced foreign-supplied weaponry, India's indigenous air defence and electronic warfare networks remained superior."

The nearly ₹2,000-crore contract for Akashteer, a networking and automation project, was signed in March 2023 and was fielded a year later. Bharat Electronics Ltd. (BEL) said on social media that its in-house designed and manufactured Akashteer system had proved its mettle on the war field. "Ground-based defence systems integrated with Akashteer made it hell for Pakistan's air adventures," it said. "The system performed beyond users' expectations, providing robust air defence to India during the current conflict."

The situation along the western borders remained calm on the intervening night of May 13-14. Army sources said there was no schedule as yet for the next round of talks between the Directors-General of Military Operations of India and Pakistan.

Key briefing: President Droupadi Murmu with the Chief of Defence Staff and Service Chiefs on Wednesday. X/@RASHTRAPATIBHVN

President briefed on Operation Sindoor by CDS, Service Chiefs

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, accompanied by the three Service Chiefs, briefed President Droupadi Murmu, in her capacity as Commander-in-Chief of the Indian armed forces, on the progress of Operation Sindoor on Wednesday.

The meeting included General Upendra Dwivedi, Chief of the Army Staff; Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh, Chief of the Air Staff; and Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi, Chief of the Naval Staff. They provided her updates on the ongoing operation.

The Rashtrapati Bhavan, in a post on the social media platform X, confirmed the briefing and highlighted the President's recognition of the armed forces' efforts. "The President commended the valour and dedication of the armed forces that made India's response to terrorism a sterling success," the post read.

Operation Sindoor, launched on May 7, is India's strategic counteroffensive in response to the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22, which claimed the lives of 26 civilians. The operation aims to target and neutralise terror camps operating within Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir.

Family heaves sigh of relief as BSF jawan captured by Pak. returns to India

Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

The family members of Purnam Kumar Shaw, the Border Security Force jawan who was returned to India on Wednesday after spending over 20 days in the custody of Pakistan Rangers, heaved a sigh of relief as the news came in.

An official statement said Mr. Shaw, a resident of Rishra in Hooghly district of West Bengal, was handed over to the BSF at 10.30 a.m. on the Attari border in Punjab. As the family got the much-awaited call, they broke into tears of joy and distributed sweets to relatives and neighbours in Rishra.

"Operation Sindoor honoured the sindoor of 26 women. And now, the government has also honoured my sindoor and brought my husband back. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has called me four times since morning. She had said she would get my husband back in seven days and she did," Mr. Shaw's pregnant wife, Rajni, said.

Emotional message

In an emotional message to the nation, she said even after such a harrowing experience, she would never stop her husband from returning to duty on the country's borders. "He has served the country for 17 years and he shall continue his duties," Ms. Shaw added.

"My best wishes are with you, now you must stay smiling," Ms. Banerjee told Ms. Shaw over phone as news of his release spread. Ms. Shaw said Ms. Banerjee referred to her husband as her brother and offered full support to the family. Ms. Banerjee took to the social media platform 'X' to express her joy over the jawan's return.

Joyous moment: BSF jawan Purnam Kumar Shaw's wife and mother express their relief after his release on Wednesday. PTI

Bharatiya Janata Party MP Sukanta Majumdar shared a message of joy. "After so many days, our jawan has been brought back. This has been only possible due to the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," he added.

Mr. Shaw was detained by Pakistan Rangers on April 23, a day after the Pahalgam terror attack which left 26 people dead.

Wife's appeals

Soon after his detention, BSF officials had visited Ms. Shaw at her home in Rishra to assure her of immediate action.

On April 28, the pregnant Ms. Shaw had travelled to the BSF camp in Pathankot, Punjab, to meet senior officials and appeal for her husband's return.

Ms. Shaw began losing hope when tensions escalated between India and Pakistan following Operation Sindoor. With the tensions easing and diplomatic efforts bearing fruit, the anxiety that had gripped the family has given way to jubilation.

The West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress and Lok Sabha MP Kalyan Banerjee had also been in contact with the family.

Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and K.C. Venugopal at a meeting held at the AICC headquarters on Wednesday. R.V. MOORTHY

Congress plans rallies to question Modi's 'silence' on U.S. claims

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

Accusing the BJP of "politicising" Operation Sindoor, the Congress on Wednesday announced that it would take out nationwide *Jai Hind* rallies across the country to question the Prime Minister's "silence" on U.S. President Donald Trump's claims of mediating a ceasefire between India and Pakistan and the "halting" of the military operation.

"Operation Sindoor doesn't belong to one party, it belongs to the nation," Congress leader Jairam Ramesh, addressing a press conference jointly with Pawan Khera, said after a Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting.

The CWC adopted a resolution that said Mr. Trump's claim of brokering had internationalised the Kashmir issue and represented a "dangerous and unprecedented hyphenation of India with Pakistan".

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi chaired the meeting that was attended by senior leaders.

Referring to contradictory reports over the ceasefire, a leader quoted Mr. Gandhi as saying, "questions must be asked as to who asked the Americans to intervene".

He lauded the armed forces for doing a "phenomenal job within a limited mandate" and argued that "if the forces didn't want to disclose certain tactical details, it must be respected".

Meanwhile, the party distanced itself from the public comments of Mr. Tharoor, who had earlier said ceasefire was at the instance of Pakistan.

This was at odds with the Congress' official position on the matter.

Shed politics till Operation ends, BJP tells Opposition

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party on Wednesday said the Opposition should show its "true spirit and shed the politics at least until Operation Sindoor finishes".

"Still, if they want to go ahead, this poses a serious question over their intent and commitment on the issue of national security in the eyes of the public," BJP MP and party spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi told presspersons.

"On the issue of mediation, which the Opposition tried to raise, it is being very unequivocally expressed by the Government of India that the issue of Pakistan occupied Kashmir is a bilateral issue. It is to be settled on bilateral terms between India and Pakistan," Mr. Trivedi said.

There was no scope for mediation from any other country, he said. "With due respect to all the countries of the world which have a positive outlook for India, we want to say that this issue of PoK is just a bilateral issue between India and Pakistan. There is no scope for any mediation by any country, including those countries which were said to be the guardians of democracy and were asked to interfere in the democratic process of India," he said.

कोल इंडिया लिमिटेड
(एक महारत्न कंपनी)

"All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on website of Coal India Ltd **www.coalindia.in** / respective Subsidiary Company, CIL e-procurement portal **https://coalindiatenders.nic.in** and Central Procurement Portal **https://eprocure.gov.in** In addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal **https://gem.gov.in**".

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
CMG, SDSC - SHAR SRIHARIKOTA - 524124

Brief E-TENDER NOTICE : CORRIGENDUM-I (SALE EXTENSION)
No: e-Tender Notice No.CMG/C/CON/258701-(I) **Dt: 13.05.2025**
Refer to Tender No CMG/C/CON/258701 dated 28.04.2025 Name of work: **"Providing DI water line for SPAG(B) buildings and Construction of compound wall, ramp, gate for Mahan Building, Connecting Corridor at IVMH, SMPC Unit-2, SDSC SHAR"** (Est. cost Rs.51 Lakhs).
Sale period extended up to 19.05.2025
Interested tenderers may visit **www.isro.gov.in** or **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** for details.
Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG/SDSC SHAR

TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD
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Website: www.travancoredevaswomboard.org

E-TENDERS FOR THE SUPPLY OF:
Cardamom, Dry Rice, Raw Rice, Jaggery Powder, Sugar Candy, Black Raisins, Dry Ginger, Cuminseed, Green Gram Dal, Beaten Rice, Butter Paper Bag, Pure Ghee, Ghee Pouch, Carton Box, Composite cans, BOP Tape, Easy Open Lids in connection with Sabarimala festival 1201 ME (2025-2026).
E-Tender Closing Date : **04-06-2025 - 11.00 AM**
E-Tender Opening Date : **05-06-2025 - 11.00 AM**
Venue: **Devaswom Commissioner Office, Nanthancode, Thiruvananthapuram - 695 003**
For more details visit **www.travancoredevaswomboard.org**
ROC NO : 4/25/Sab. Dated : 12-05-2025 Sd/- **DEVASWOM COMMISSIONER**

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e-Mail: material276339@gmail.com Website: www.huttigold.karnataka.gov.in
TENDER NOTIFICATION No. 01/25-26 Dt: 15.05.2025
(Through KPP Portal only)
Tenders are invited by "The Senior Manager (Materials)" for the following tenders, detailed below.

Sl. No.	Description	EMD in Rs.
1	Procurement of Detonating Fuse10g/Mtrs. **HGML/2024-25/IND0278/Call-2**	1,10,000/-
2	Supply of 1250 Amps ACB Panel. **HGML/2024-25/IND0316**	47,000/-
3	Supply of Bananas for 06 months requirement on Staggered delivery basis. **HGML/2024-25/IND0237**	18,500/-
4	Supply of Power Module spares for winder System. **HGML/2024-25/IND0285/Call-2**	52,000/-
5	Procurement of long bamboo 18 Feet to 20 Feet. **HGML/2024-25/IND0211/CALL-3**	36,000/-
6	Supply of Various size tyres for Transport Section. **HGML/2024-25/IND0283/Call-2**	89,000/-
7	Construction of office building for Engineering officers (ST category). **HGML/2024-25/BD/WORK_INDENT95/Call-2**	49,000/-
8	Extension of telephone exchange room by constructing a building adjacent to existing Building (SC Category). **HGML/2024-25/BD/WORK_INDENT94/CALL-2**	11,000/-
9	Supply of Powerflex DC Drive. **HGML/2024-25/IND0271/CALL-3**	35,000/-
10	Concrete Flooring work at Scrap Yard. **HGML/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT103**	61,000/-
11	Procurement of 11 KV ICOG VCB Panels.**HGML/2025-26/IND0318**	54,000/-
12	Tender for Providing consultancy service for preparation of DPR & estimation for re-powering of existing 0.6 MW WTG with higher capacity.**HGML/2024-25/SE0044/CALL-2**	42,500/-

Calendar of events: **(1)** Last date for receipt of Tender: **30.05.2025 at 4.00 PM. (2)** Opening of Technical Bid on: **02.06.2025 at 10.00 AM.** For further details interested bidders are advised to log on to website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact the office of undersigned during working hours. For participating in the above tender bidder needs to be registered in KPP Portal.
Sd/- Senior Manager (Materials)
"LEADING GOLD PRODUCER IN INDIA"

TOURISM CORPORATION OF GUJARAT LIMITED (TCGL)
(A Government of Gujarat undertaking)
Udyog Bhavan, Block No. 16, 4th Floor,
Sector - 11, Gandhinagar - 382 011
Website: https://www.gujarattourism.com
TENDER NOTICE
Bids are invited from reputed and experienced parties towards **"Selection of an Agency for Operation & Maintenance of Tourist Infrastructure created at Shivrajpur Beach, Devbhumi Dwarka, Gujarat".**
The project requirements, technical specifications, eligibility criteria, selection process, etc. are included in the Tender documents, which shall be available for download from the websites: **https://tender.nprocure.com/ and https://www.gujarattourism.com** from **15/05/2025 onwards.**
The last date for submission of the **Technical Bid and Financial Bid (online only) is 06/06/2025 up to 6:00 pm. and Technical Bid (physical only) is 09/06/2025 up to 3:00 pm.**
Managing Director

GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
BUILDINGS AND ROADS (NORTH) DIVISION
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
No.78/PW/BRN/DB/JE/Tender/2025-26 Puducherry, the 14.05.2025
PRESS NOTICE FOR e-TENDER
e-Tender No.12/PW/EE/BRN/2025-26
On behalf of the President of India, tenders are invited through e-Tendering by the Executive Engineer, Buildings and Roads (North) Division, Public Works Department, Puducherry for the work of **"Resumption of Balance work of "Construction of Tagore Cultural Complex and Open Air Theatre" at Bharathiyar Palkalaikoodam Campus, Ariyankuppam, Puducherry."** in Tender 12/PW/EE/BRN/25-26 for estimated cost of Rs.7,84,30,474/- (Approximately) Inclusive of GST 10%. For further details please refer to the website **https://pudutenders.gov.in**

Pre-bid Meeting Date, Time & Place	29.05.2025-10.30A.M conference hall, Central officer. PWD, Puducherry
Availability of NIT from	10.00 AM on 19.05.2025 to 04.00 P.M. on 9.06.2025
Closing time for submission of e-tender at 4.00 PM on the same day of last date of availability of NIT.	
Date and time of opening of bid	on 10.06.2025...at 10.00 AM (Next Working Day)

No.115/DIP/AD(Press)/2025-26 **EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**

INBRIEF

Former Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar is UPSC Chairman

Former Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar has been appointed Chairman of the UPSC, says a Union Personnel Ministry order. The post of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) Chairman fell vacant after the completion of Preeti Sudan's tenure on April 29. Mr. Kumar's appointment was cleared by President Droupadi Murmu, said the order issued on Tuesday. A 1985-batch retired Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the Kerala cadre, Mr. Kumar worked as Defence Secretary from August 23, 2019 to October 31, 2022, according to his service records. An UPSC Chairman is appointed for a term of six years or until attaining 65 years of age. PTI

Amritsar hooch toll hits 23; key accused among 16 held

The toll in the hooch tragedy in Amritsar climbed to 23 on Wednesday, with two more residents succumbing in the Majitha area, the Punjab Police said on Wednesday. According to the police, two more persons from Delhi were arrested in connection with the case on Wednesday, taking the total number of arrests to 16, including of the main accused. Most of the victims were daily wagers. The deaths have been reported in Bhangali, Patalpuri, Marari Kalan, Talwandi Khumman, Karnala, Bhangwan and Therewal villages, officials said. The two persons arrested from Delhi were identified as Ravinder Jain and Rishabh Jain. PTI

'21-day anti-Naxal operation dislocated Maoist leadership'

The operation was carried out in the 'very difficult, hilly terrain' around Karegutta Hill on the Chhattisgarh-Telangana boundary; Maoist leadership is completely segregated and their military formations have been splintered, say top officials

Shubhomoy Sikdar
BIJAPUR

Operation success: Weapons seized by the police along the Karegutta Hill after anti-Naxal operations on display in Bijapur, Chhattisgarh, on Wednesday. PTI

Top officers of the Central Reserve Police Force and Chhattisgarh Police on Wednesday said that the recently concluded 21-day anti-Naxal operation along the Karegutta Hill on the Chhattisgarh-Telangana boundary had met its main objective of "dislocating" the top leadership of the Maoists, who had congregated at one place.

The operation was carried out from April 21 to May 11 in the areas around the Karegutta Hill, "a very difficult, hilly terrain about 60-km long and 5-20-km wide", officials said.

According to the police, 21 encounters took place as part of the operation that saw large mobilisation of forces and led to the deaths of at least 31 uniformed Maoists, including 16 women.

Preliminary investigation suggested that the deceased were members of the banned Communist Party of India (Maoist) group, and were part of the People's Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA) Battalion No. 1, their strongest military formation, the Telangana State Committee, and the Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee, the police claimed.

Key objective

"The main objective of launching the operation on Karegutta Hill was to dislocate the leadership [of the Maoists] that had congregated in one place. In that objective, the forces have completely succeeded and their leadership is completely segregated and dislocated. Even their military formations have been splintered into smaller groups," said Chhattisgarh Additional Director-General of Police (Naxal Operations) Vivekanand Sinha.

Personnel from different units, including the District Reserve Guard (DRG), Bastar Fighters, Special Task Force (STF), all units of State police, the CRPF and its elite unit CoBRA, conducted the operation that Mr. Sinha described as "the largest comprehensive and coordinated anti-Maoist operation" in Chhattisgarh till date.

Officers said that in the past two-and-a-half years, Maoists gradually built their base on the hill, which became the refuge of 300-350 of armed cadre, including the Technical Department (TD) unit of the PLGA that manufactures weapons, and other important organisations.

The shifting of Maoists to Karegutta Hill, they added, had happened as a result of the increasing dominance of the security forces, which had set up new camps and executed sustained operations in other areas. The Maoists had formed a Unified Command and taken refuge on the hill as they considered it was impregnable.

CRPF Director-General Gyandendra Pratap Singh said that in recent years, the CRPF along with the State police forces had carried out several such operations in inaccessible regions of the country that were once identified as Naxal bastions. He mentioned the Chakarbanda Hilly Region and Boodha Pahad as areas similar to the Karegutta Hill. "These inaccessible regions were acting as bastions for the Naxals and were no-go areas for the security forces. With them being cleared, achieving the goal of Naxal-free India in the future seems easy," he said.

Reiterating the deadline of March 31, 2026 set by Union Home Minister Amit Shah for eradication of Naxalism, Mr. Singh described the latest encounter as the "beginning of the end" for Naxals.

Take steps to ensure proper footpaths, SC tells States

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday observed that the States and local authorities must safeguard the fundamental right of pedestrians to clear and unhindered footpaths.

"This court has recognised that the right of pedestrians to use footpaths is guaranteed under Article 21 [right to life and dignity] of the Constitution. Right to have footpaths that are unobstructed is an essential characteristic," a Bench of Justices A.S. Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan said.

The court directed the States and Union Territories to frame guidelines to ensure proper footpaths for pedestrians calling it their constitutional right.

The Bench was hearing a case over the delay in the implementation of the cashless scheme for treating road accident victims. The court said the absence of footpaths contributed to road accidents, as it forced pedestrians to walk on roads. "It is necessary to have proper footpaths for citizens. They should be such that they are accessible to persons with disabilities, and removal of encroachments is mandatory," it said.

Himalayan leap for yak genomic science

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

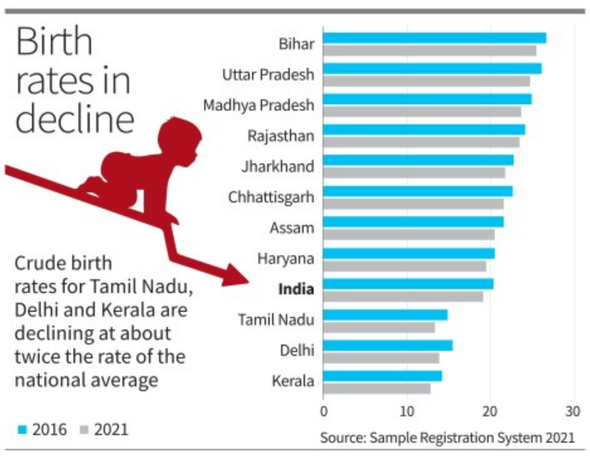
Specialists from four institutions of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) have assembled the first-ever chromosome-level genome of the Indian yak.

The Indian yak (*Bos grunniens*), often called the 'ship of the Himalayas', is an integral part of the economy of high-altitude dwellers, who depend on it for meat, milk, and transportation.

Mihir Sarkar, the Director of the ICAR-National Research Centre on Yak in Arunachal Pradesh's Dirang, said the "leap for yak genomic science" marks a significant milestone that promises to revolutionise yak breeding programmes and the understanding of the genetic complexities of this vital species.

Birth rates in Delhi, Kerala, and T.N. declining at twice the rate of national average: report

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI



The annual crude birth rates (live births per 1,000 people in the population) in Tamil Nadu, Delhi and Kerala are declining at twice the rate of the national average, showed data from the Sample Registration System (SRS) Statistical Report, 2021, released by the Registrar- General of India last week.

The data showed that the all-India crude birth rate was 19.3 in 2021, dropping at a rate of 1.12% every year from 2016 to 2021. In comparison, in the same period, the birth rate in Tamil Nadu has been declining at a rate of 2.35% every year, Delhi's at a rate of 2.23% and Kerala's at 2.05%.

The data showed that the slowest rate of decline in birth rate was seen in States such as Rajasthan (0.48%), Bihar (0.86%), Chhattisgarh (0.98%), Jharkhand (0.98%), Assam (1.05%), Madhya Pradesh (1.05%), West Bengal (1.08%), and Uttar Pradesh (1.09%). The data further revealed that Uttarakhand was the only State which saw a rise in birth rate in this period.

The birth rates data from the SRS 2021 further revealed that the rate of decline was faster than the national average for 13 large States and Union Territories.

All southern States – Andhra Pradesh (1.26%), Telangana (1.67%), Karnataka (1.68%), Kerala, and Tamil Nadu – featured among these 13 large States and Union Territories.

The SRS is the largest demographic survey in the country, meant to provide annual estimates on fertility and mortality indicators such as birth rates and death rates.

Apart from the southern States, birth rates were seen declining faster than the national average for Maharashtra (1.57%), Gujarat (1.24%), Odisha (1.34%), Himachal Pradesh (1.29%), Haryana (1.21%), and J&K (1.47%), with Punjab's birth rate declining almost at the same rate as that of the national average.

Registered births

Corresponding to this data set in the SRS 2021 Statistical Report, the Civil Registration System 2021 dataset showed that some of the States seeing the slowest decline in birth rates are also reporting increasing number of registered births. The Vital Statistics Report based on CRS 2021 showed that the number of registered births were seeing a rise in about 11 States and Union Territories, which included Bihar, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Nagaland, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, and Lakshadweep.

The SRS 2021 data on total fertility rate (TFR) and gross reproduction rate (GRR) too correspond to the birth rate data – showing that States such as Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh had a TFR and GRR higher than the national average.

The TFR measures average number of children expected to be born per woman during her entire span of reproductive period and GRR refers to the average number of daughters each woman has who survive to reproductive age and have children of their own.

India protests China renaming places in Arunachal Pradesh

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

> Creative naming will not alter the undeniable reality that the State is integral part of India
>
> **RANDHIR JAISWAL**
> MEA spokesperson

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Wednesday said "creative naming" of places by China would not alter the ground reality that Arunachal Pradesh is an "inalienable part of India". The Ministry-level response came after China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced a change in the names of some places in Arunachal Pradesh.

"We have noticed that China has persisted with its vain and preposterous attempts to name places in the Indian State of Arunachal Pradesh. Consistent with our principled position, we reject such attempts categorically. Creative naming will not alter the undeniable reality that Arunachal Pradesh, was, is, and will always remain an integral and inalienable part of India," the MEA's official spokesperson, Randhir Jaiswal, said in a statement.

Earlier, the spokesperson of China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Lin Jian, had said that China had "standardised" names of some places in Arunachal Pradesh, which Beijing refers to as Zangnan.

China and India have had tough exchanges regarding Beijing's attempts at the so-called "standardisation" of names in the border State.

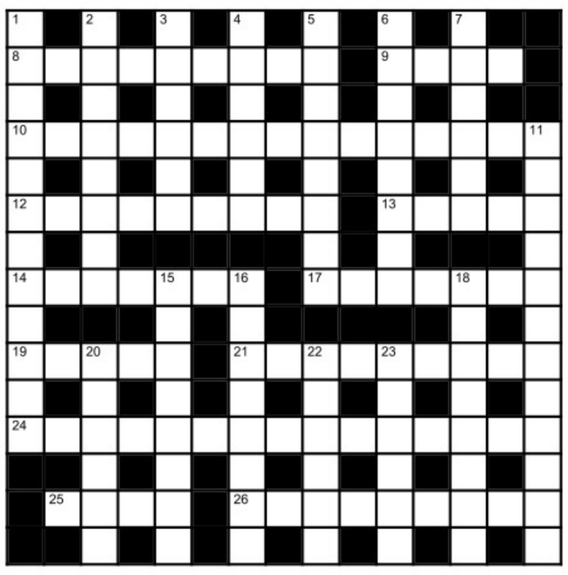
Similar attempts were made in April 2024.

TH CROSSWORD + 14485

(set by Crescent)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

8 Majority of the country switching sides in shame (9)
9 Some flea preparing to jump (4)
10 Simple test is mostly good base for philosophers studying knowledge (15)
12 Adolescent drinking a nuisance around outdoor café (3,6)
13 Cut to equally divide a sweet (5)
14 Clubs, say, in environs of Paris (7)
17 Custom houses withdrawing concession counter (7)
19 Customary number by comedian taking off Chaplin's original (5)
21 Creature's lair old man briefly disturbed (9)
24 Endlessly rich king doubling gold enthralled by craven, evil route to wealth (6,5,4)
25 Key opener for India only scoring zero (4)
26 Neutralizing agent shrinking stuff that is spread over hides (9)

Down

1 Small space in pantry, type designed for pots (1,6,5)
2 Cow could be cogitating (8)
3 Staff drawing up slogan (6)
4 Shot dead after row about money (6)
5 Make up excuse, primarily fabricated, entirely without a hint of truth (8)
6 Mark of identification to dispatch most important part (8)
7 Maiden I save following behind mother (6)
11 Corporate members are hard pressed by bears, at first usually going short (12)
15 Shut in, intimate in conclusion (8)
16 Bar stops good friends turning violent (4-4)
18 Old man is cooking fish (8)
20 Harass sleepers close to midnight (6)
22 Male bounding first is in the first place (6)
23 Animal, little goat, child rears (3-3)

SUDOKU

8		7	2		5			
	5		6					
	9	6	4					
2				6		3		
	6	1		8		2	5	
		9		4				7
					4	6	2	
					6		4	
			1		3	7		5

No.SS6520 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to previous puzzle

R	E	C	I	P	E		A	B	A	S	H	I	N	G
E		A		A				E		I		N		A
A	E	R	A	T	E		H	A	N	G	O	V	E	R
L		P		H		A		K		N		I		D
T	W	O	P	E	N	C	E		B	O	O	T	E	E
I		O		T		O		S		F		E		N
M	U	L	T	I	P	L	I	C	I	T	Y			
E		S		C		Y		R		H		T		A
			O	F	F	T	H	E	R	E	C	O	R	D
J		T		A		E		E		Z		A		H
A	Q	U	I	L	A		S	C	R	O	U	N	G	E
F		N		L		T		H		D		D		R
F	A	D	E	A	W	A	Y		R	I	F	F	L	E
N		R		C		X			A		R		N	
A	N	A	L	Y	S	I	S		A	C	T	O	U	T

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

2	1	8	4	9	5	6	7	3
9	4	5	7	3	6	2	1	8
6	7	3	1	2	8	4	5	9
7	2	9	5	6	3	1	8	4
1	5	4	8	7	9	3	2	6
3	8	6	2	1	4	7	9	5
8	9	7	3	4	1	5	6	2
5	3	1	6	8	2	9	4	7
4	6	2	9	5	7	8	3	1

FAITH

Keeping mind worry-free

If people load their minds with unwanted thoughts, their minds will become confused and agitated. Thanneerpalli Krishnan Swamy said there are three reasons for confusion to arise in our minds. Firstly, expecting results for those activities performed that are against the Sastras. Dhritarashtra became restive and sleepless on the Pandavas' completion of their stay in the forest, and they asked for their portion of the kingdom. Out of blind affection towards his son Duryodhana, the King was reluctant to part with them the kingdom. He asked Vidhura why he could not remain in peace and tranquillity. Vidhura replied that the King drifted away from the virtuous path. Secondly, people sometimes get confused when understanding and identifying what is righteous and what is not. Arjuna became confused at the beginning of the war and requested, "With my heart stricken by the fault, with my mind perplexed about my duty, I ask you, Lord Krishna, to advise what is good for me" – Chapter 2, Verse 7.

If more worries crop up, they lead to mental depression, which is the root cause of anxiety, sorrow, fear, and debility. Lord Krishna says serenity of mind, benevolence, silence, self-control, and purity of mind are the austerities of the mind – Chapter 17- verse 16. Thirdly, even when we undertake activities as prescribed by the Sastras, we should not anticipate the fruits of the efforts. We should develop the thought that the actions are performed for God's sake and to please Him. The poor Kuchela, who desperately needed help, went to see Lord Krishna without any anticipation. Pleased with his true love and sincerity, the Lord showered him with all blessings and prosperity.

INBRIEF

Wholesale inflation eases to 13-month low of 0.85%

Inflation at the wholesale level in India eased to its lowest level in a little more than a year, to 0.85% in April, according to the latest data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The main drivers of easing of inflation were falling crude oil prices, as well as softening food inflation. Wholesale inflation, as measured by the Wholesale Price Index, was last lower than April's reading in March 2024, which makes the latest data a 13-month low.

Coromandel, Sakarni to make green building materials

Coromandel Chemicals Ltd., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Coromandel International Ltd. of the Murugappa Group, said it signed definitive agreements to form a joint venture with Sakarni Plaster for the manufacture and sale of Phospho Gypsum-based green building materials. This joint venture would enable Coromandel to diversify beyond its core agri-input business, enhance integration synergies and create long-term value, the company said.

Eicher Motors Q4 PAT rises 27%, to pay ₹70 final dividend

Eicher Motors Ltd. reported a 27.3% Year-on-Year (YoY) growth in consolidated net profit to ₹1,362 crore backed by robust performance at Royal Enfield and commercial vehicles business. Revenue from operations rose 23% to ₹5,241 crore. Royal Enfield recorded its highest-ever quarterly sales at 2,80,801 motorcycles, a 23.2% growth over Q4 FY24. The board considered and recommended a final dividend of ₹70 per share (face value of ₹1 per share) for FY25.

New SEBI norms spooked SIPs

The number of SIP cancellations more than tripled to 162.3 lakh in April compared with March, creating a perception that market volatility spooked mutual fund investors; *The Hindu* has learnt this surge is related to market regulator's norms

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

The number of SIP cancellations more than tripled to 162.3 lakh in April compared with March, creating a perception that market volatility had spooked investors in mutual funds. However, *The Hindu* has learnt that this surge in cancellations had more to do with the rules laid out in a SEBI circular rather than fears among investors.

In a circular, reviewed by *The Hindu*, dated January 3, 2024, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), India's capital markets regulator, had said SIPs with more than three consecutive failed installment-payment attempts were to be accounted as invalid. This applied to daily, weekly, monthly and fortnightly contributions. SIPs with quarterly and bi-monthly contributions will be invalid after missing payment for two consecutive time periods, the circular read. AMCs must process the cancellation in 10 days from the day the investor makes the request, SEBI added and gave the AMCs and AMFI time till April 1, 2024 to provide more transparent data on cancelled SIPs.

Beyond visual range

When Systematic Investment Plans (SIPs) of mutual funds faced huge cancellations, the common perception was it had to do with market volatility. But it was otherwise

- In a 2024 circular, SEBI said SIPs with over 3 consecutive failed installment-payment attempts were deemed invalid
- Markets regulator gave AMCs and AMFI time till April 1, 2024 to provide more transparent data on cancelled SIPs
- AMFI started cleaning up invalid account backlog in January

'Long drawn process'

"The entire cleaning up process took longer than expected. While in respect of all the future transactions, they implemented it, but legacy accounts could not be cleaned up. And that cleaning up process, we have initiated in the month of December, January (2025)," said Venkat Chalasani, CEO, AMFI.

The invalid account backlog were started to be cleared in January. The number of discontinued accounts grew 56% in January, 21% in February and declined 15% in March and then tripled in April.

"This month we have totally completed the clean-up process," Mr. Venkat Chalasani added.

Cabinet approves ₹3,700 crore display chip-making unit in U.P.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a display driver chip manufacturing unit in Jewar, Uttar Pradesh, Minister of Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw announced.

The unit, which will attract investments worth ₹3,700 crore according to a government statement, will be a joint venture by Indian firm HCL and Taiwanese electronics manufacturing giant Foxconn.

This semiconductor unit is the sixth to be supported under the ₹76,000 crore first phase of the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM). The unit will churn out 36 million chips a month from 20,000 wafers, Mr. Vaishnaw said.

Display panel plant will also come to India, says Vaishnaw.

"What we understand is that once this unit is there, the display panel plant will also come to India," Mr. Vaishnaw said. "This will more or less meet about 40% of India's capacity." Chips from this unit will go into laptops, PCs, phones and automobiles.

First chip plant

This is the first semiconductor plant in Uttar Pradesh, Mr. Vaishnaw said adding firms choose the States and build units themselves, calling Jewar an "up and coming industrial area".

The unit addresses "a critical gap in India's display and electronics value chain," said Ashok Chandak, president of the India Electronics and Semiconductor Association.

'India among top six in 6G patent filings'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

More than 111 research projects have been funded in India with a sanctioned amount of ₹300 crore and the country now ranks among top six nations globally in 6G patent filings, Union Minister of State for Telecom Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani said.

Speaking at BHARAT 6G 2025 conference, the Minister said 6G will use Tera-Hertz frequency bands enabling data rates up to 1 terabit per second which is 100 times faster than 5G.

"Over 111 research projects have been funded with the sanctioned amount of ₹300 crore and India now ranks among the top six nations globally in 6G patent filings. We have a vast amount of talent pool and we have enough time. There is no reason for us not to lead in 6G," Mr. Pemmasani said.

6G will enable data rates of up to 1 terabit per second .

Centre revamps PLFS, includes rural jobs data

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Government has decided to revamp the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), started in 2017, to include employment and unemployment data from rural areas too.

The Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI) said on Wednesday that the coverage of the PLFS will now be enhanced and the sampling design revamp will address the requirement of high frequency labour market indicators.

MoSPI added that the revamped PLFS will estimate key employment and unemployment indicators such as Labour Force Participation Rate, Worker Population Ratio, Unemployment Rate on a monthly basis for rural and urban areas at all-India level in the Current Weekly Status (CWS). These indicators, for urban areas alone, have been released quarterly.

Going forward, the PLFS coverage will be extended to rural areas producing quarterly estimates at the country level and for major States in the CWS.

"It will also estimate important employment and unemployment indicators in both usual status (ps+ss) and CWS in rural and urban areas annually," the Ministry said. Usual Status (ps+ss) and CWS refers to frameworks to determine activity status of person surveyed based on reference periods of one year and last seven days preceding the date of survey, respectively.

The revamped PLFS sample design was initiated from from January, 2025 and the first monthly bulletin of PLFS for April, 2025 is scheduled to be released this month. "The first quarterly bulletin of PLFS covering both rural and urban areas for April-June, 2025 is slated to be released in August, 2025," the Ministry said.

As many as 12 households will be surveyed from each of the selected FSUs.

In the revamped PLFS sample, a sample size of 22,692 First Stage Units (FSUs) will be surveyed (12,504 FSUs in rural areas and 10,188 in urban areas) every year of the two-year panel with first visit schedule compared with 12,800 FSUs surveyed in PLFS till December, 2024.

"12 households will be surveyed from each of the selected FSUs, which implies an overall sample size of around 2,72,304 households. This marks a 2.65 time increase in sample households to be covered in PLFS compared with the number of sample households covered up to December, 2024 (which was around 1,02,400). The enhanced sample size is expected to provide reliable estimates of labour market indicators with improved precision," MoSPI said.

Tata Power Q4 net profit surges 25%

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The firm achieved record-breaking PAT exceeding ₹5,000 cr., on contributions via all business segments

Tata Power Company Ltd. consolidated net profit grew 25% year-on-year to ₹1,306 crore, continuing growth momentum for the 22nd consecutive quarter.

Consolidated revenue at ₹17,238 crore grew 7%. For FY25, consolidated net profit grew 12% to ₹4,775 crore. Consolidated annual revenue climbed 5% to ₹64,502 crore.

Dividend approved

The board of directors recommended a dividend of ₹2.25 per share.

The Transmission & Distribution (T&D) business net profit grew 50% to ₹616 crore in Q4FY25 and this business achieved full year PAT growth of 37% over the previous year, it said.

Net profit of renewables business grew 62% to ₹469 crore in Q4FY25 and 48% to ₹1,256 crore for FY25.

"FY25 has been a remarkable year for Tata Power, with the company achieving a record-breaking PAT exceeding ₹5,000 crore, driven by exceptional contributions across all our business segments," said Praveer Sinha, CEO and MD, Tata Power.

"For the first time, we surpassed 1 GW in renewable capacity additions within a single year."

Apollo HealthCo to market insurance

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

All insurance plans will be bundled with Apollo benefits with focus on distributing OPD cover in future

Apollo Hospitals group firm Apollo HealthCo is gearing up to market health and term life insurance products of at least eight insurers with whom it has tied up after securing Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) approval to operate as a corporate agent.

A pilot project was successfully completed and the plan is to unveil insurance products from as many as 12 insurers within the next two months. For now, it has tied up with four standalone health and four life insurers. All the insurance plans will be bundled with exclusive Apollo benefits with a focus on distributing OPD coverage in future.

The firm is eyeing marketing of one lakh policies this fiscal, said Apollo HealthCo CEO Madhivanan Balakrishnan.

There are also plans to launch a credit card in association with a card issuer to simplify payments and reduce healthcare costs for its customers, he added.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	81,331	0.22
US Dollar	85.32	0.05
Gold	96,850	-0.67
Brent oil	66.26	-0.70

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2461.90	20.70
Adani Ports	1371.80	2.60
Apollo Hosp	6916.50	-1.00
Asian Paints	2282.30	-42.30
Axis Bank	1195.50	1.90
Bajaj Auto	8102.50	39.50
Bajaj Finserv	2020.40	2.20
Bajaj Finance	9081.00	39.00
Bharat Elec	344.35	8.60
Bharti Airtel	1834.20	13.60
Cipla	1494.80	-25.30
Coal India	403.10	7.95
Dr Reddys Lab	1220.00	12.90
Eicher Motors	5446.50	27.50
Eternal Ltd.	236.86	5.21
Grasim Ind	2737.20	28.50
HCL Tech	1637.70	18.10
HDFC Bank	1910.60	-12.00
HDFC Life	741.70	6.65
Hero MotoCorp	4067.20	3.60
Hindalco	650.55	15.80
Hind Unilever	2350.50	-9.50
ICICI Bank	1426.20	-4.40
IndusInd Bank	781.35	11.25
Infosys	1592.40	23.80
ITC	429.10	1.20
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	267.50	0.10
JSW Steel	989.30	-0.60
Kotak Bank	2092.40	-23.20
L&T	3573.10	6.10
M&M	3101.80	48.00
Maruti Suzuki	12670.00	188.00
NestleIndia	2370.40	0.20
NTPC	338.55	-2.95
ONGC	246.01	4.85
PowerGrid Corp	295.95	-2.50
Reliance Ind	1424.40	8.70
SBI Life	1755.20	15.20
State Bank	800.70	-1.05
Shriram Finance Ltd.	651.95	18.35
Sun Pharma	1708.20	8.20
TataConsumerProduct	1120.40	1.80
Tata Motors	698.95	-8.75
Tata Steel	155.31	5.88
TCS	3548.70	33.70
Tech Mahindra	1603.20	30.70
Titan	3587.60	24.40
Trent Ltd.	5362.00	35.50
UltraTech Cement	11672.00	11.00
Wipro	252.94	1.37

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on May 14

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	85.07	85.39
Euro	95.42	95.78
British Pound	113.38	113.81
Japanese Yen (100)	58.22	58.44
Chinese Yuan	11.81	11.85
Swiss Franc	101.71	102.10
Singapore Dollar	65.51	65.78
Canadian Dollar	61.03	61.26
Malaysian Ringitt	19.82	19.93
Australian Dollar	55.00	55.20

Source:Indian Bank

Hypertension Myths and Facts: What You Need to Know

Hypertension, or high blood pressure, is one of India's fastest-growing health concerns. According to Apollo's Health of the Nation 2025 report, 1 in 3 working-age Indian men (31%) and 1 in 4 women (24%) between 40–55 years have high blood pressure. That's because hypertension typically shows no symptoms while silently damaging your heart, kidneys, brain and blood vessels. Tackling it starts with awareness.

Here are the most common myths and the facts you need to know to protect your health.

Myth 1: "I feel fine, so my blood pressure must be normal."

Fact: You can be perfectly healthy on the outside and still have high blood pressure. Many Indians with normal weight and active lifestyles still have hypertension due to stress, genetics or other underlying factors. As there are usually no symptoms, the only way to detect it early is through regular blood pressure checks. Ignoring it can lead to heart attacks, strokes, kidney disease and even vision loss.

Myth 2: "Only older people get high blood pressure."

Fact: While age increases the risk, Apollo's data shows that 1 in 3 people with high BP are under 40. Stressful jobs, poor sleep, ultraprocessed food, inactivity and high salt intake are fuelling early onset hypertension, especially in urban areas. The earlier it begins, the more damage to your body — raising the risk of complications in your 40s and 50s.

"Uncontrolled hypertension can damage more than just your heart. It damages the kidneys, eyes, brain, and blood vessels."

Dr. Girish B Navasundi
Senior Consultant Cardiologist & Certified TAVR Specialist
Apollo Hospitals – BG Road, Bengaluru

Myth 3: "Cutting salt is enough to control blood pressure."

Fact: Lowering salt intake is crucial, but BP control requires a multi-pronged approach. A healthy diet, regular exercise, weight management, stress reduction and avoiding tobacco and excess alcohol are all key. If prescribed, medications must also be taken consistently. Relying on salt reduction alone can give a false sense of security.

Myth 4: "I can stop my medication once my BP is normal."

Fact: Blood pressure medicines control the condition — they don't cure it. Stopping them suddenly can cause dangerous spikes and increase the risk of stroke or heart failure. If you want to reduce dependence on medication, it must be done gradually and with your doctor's advice, along with sustained lifestyle changes.

Myth 5: "Herbal remedies can replace my medicine."

Fact: Some traditional remedies may help improve overall well-being, but they should never replace scientifically proven medication. Some herbs can even interfere with your BP medicines. Always speak to your doctor before combining treatments.

Myth 6: "It doesn't run in my family, so I'm safe."

Fact: Family history is just one factor. Many Indians develop hypertension without it, due to modern lifestyle risks. Everyone, regardless of family history, should monitor their BP regularly as part of their annual health checks.

Final Thoughts

Hypertension may be silent, but the damage it causes is serious and lifelong. The good news? It's preventable and manageable. Prioritise your health: check your BP regularly, commit to healthy habits, and stay on top of treatment.

Check it. Track it. Control it. Because your health is your best investment.

Scan to read Apollo's Health of the Nation 2025 report

Apollo ProHealth PRESENTS
Sincerely, Your Doctor
IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE HINDU

A preventive healthcare initiative by **Apollo ProHealth** and **The Hindu**

Have questions for our doctors?
WhatsApp us at 89392 83283
or email us at sincerelyyourdoctor@thehindu.co.in
with your name, city and query.

MONTEVIDEO

Latin America mourns world's 'poorest President' Mujica

REUTERS

Uruguay began bidding farewell to its former leader Jose "Pepe" Mujica, a former leftist guerrilla fighter who won global fame for his humility as the so-called "world's poorest President." The 89-year-old, who spent a dozen years behind bars for revolutionary activity, lost a year-long battle against cancer on Tuesday. AFP

MOSCOW

Russia jails prominent election monitor Melkonyants for five years

AFP

Russia on Wednesday sentenced a high-profile election monitor to five years in prison, part of an intensifying crackdown by the Kremlin against independent critics and opponents. Grigory Melkonyants, 44, is the co-chair of the Russian vote-monitoring NGO Golos, which records alleged fraud in Russian elections. AFP

LAHORE

Rights body raises concern over eviction of Christians in Pakistan

AP

Christian farmers are being evicted from their lands by the mafia in Pakistan's Punjab and the provincial government appears to be a silent spectator, the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) said on Wednesday. The HRCP said the Christian community's farmlands have been occupied in Kot Addu, 400 km from Lahore. PTI

PHNOM PENH

Cambodia and China begin their largest-ever military exercises

AP

Cambodia and China on Wednesday began their largest-ever joint military exercises, involving advanced Chinese military hardware including artillery, warships and robot battle dogs. Nearly 900 Chinese military personnel and more than 1,300 Cambodian soldiers are taking part in the drills that will last until May 28. AFP

Kremlin slams Macron's plan for nuclear deployment

Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW

The possible deployment of French nuclear bombers across the EU will not enhance security on the continent, the Kremlin said on Wednesday, after French President Emmanuel Macron said he was ready to discuss the issue.

"The proliferation of nuclear weapons on the European continent is something that will not add security, predictability, or stability to the European continent," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

Russia possesses about 4,000 warheads and views France's nuclear deterrence as a potential threat to its national security.

Open to begin talks on French nukes in European countries, says Macron

The framework for deployment of nuclear weapons would be discussed in the weeks and months ahead, subject to conditions, French President said; Poland had recently said it would like to host American and French nukes on its soil

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

French President Emmanuel Macron, on Tuesday, said France was "ready to open" discussions about stationing France's nuclear weapons in other European countries. Mr. Macron's comments come as Europeans seek to bolster their defences, especially against Russia, and as the Trump administration has signalled that the U.S. will no longer underwrite European security.

Asked during a television interview to respond to Polish President Andrzej Duda's remarks in April that Poland would like to host both American and French nuclear weapons on its soil, Mr. Macron said his country was "ready to open this discussion".

Bold stride: Emmanuel Macron's comments comes as Europe seeks to bolster its defences while the U.S. takes a backseat. AP

The framework for deployment of nuclear weapons would be discussed in the weeks and months ahead, subject to conditions, Mr. Macron said, in a lengthy discussion with television channel *TF1* on Tuesday evening.

"Let's be clear, France will not pay for the security of others. It can be a European effort or the effort of each nation, " Mr. Macron said, enlisting the first of three conditions.

Second, the transfer of nuclear bombs to other countries would not come at the expense of France's own deterrence, according to Mr. Macron. Finally, the French President would be ultimately in charge of whether they could be used, he said.

The President indicated that the discussions had already begun.

Mr. Macron and Friedrich Merz, newly sworn-in German Chancellor, had discussed a nuclear deterrent during Mr. Merz's visit to Paris last week. The Chancellor had said there was a need to discuss nuclear deterrence with France and the U.K. – Europe's only two nuclear powers – and that any such deterrent would supplement the framework with the U.S. and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). American nuclear weapons (all of them gravity bombs) have been stationed in Europe since the 1950s.

Two dozen children among 70 killed in Israel's Gaza strikes

Associated Press
DEIR AL-BALAH

Mohammed Sinwar, younger brother of the late Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar, killed in Khan Younis

Israeli airstrikes pounded northern and southern Gaza on Wednesday, killing at least 70 people, including almost two dozen children, according to local hospitals and health officials, a day after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said there was "no way" he would halt Israel's offensive in the Palestinian territory before Hamas is defeated.

At least 50 people, including 22 children, were killed in strikes around Jabaliya in northern Gaza alone. The strikes came after Hamas on Monday released an Israeli-American hostage, a gesture that some thought could lay the groundwork for a ceasefire.

Israel's military refused to comment on the strikes. It warned Jabaliya residents to evacuate late on Tuesday, citing militant infrastructure in the area, including rocket launchers.

Israeli media reported that one target in a strike on a hospital in Khan Younis on Tuesday was Mohammed Sinwar, younger brother of the late Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar, who was killed by Israeli forces last October.

Trump meets Syria's interim leader al-Sharaa in Riyadh

Associated Press
RIYADH

Out of the box: (from left) Donald Trump, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Ahmad al-Sharaa in Riyadh. AP

U.S. President Donald Trump met with interim Syrian President Ahmad al-Sharaa [Muhammad al-Jolani] in Saudi Arabia on Wednesday, the first encounter between the two nations' leaders in 25 years and one that could mark a turning point for Syria as it struggles to emerge from decades of international isolation.

The meeting, on the sidelines of Mr. Trump's get-together with the leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council, marks a major turn of events for a Syria still adjusting to life after the over 50-year rule of the Assad family, and for its new leader, who once had a $10 million U.S. bounty for his arrest.

Mr. Trump praised al-Sharaa to reporters after the meeting on Air Force One. "He's got a real shot at holding it together," Mr. Trump said.

Sanctions, Israeli ties

Mr. Trump had announced that he would also move to lift U.S. sanctions imposed on Syria under the deposed autocrat Bashar al-Assad.

Mr. Trump said al-Sharaa had agreed to join the Abraham Accords and eventually recognise Israel, but Syria has not confirmed that.

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said in a statement that Mr. Trump urged al-Sharaa to diplomatically recognise Israel, "tell all foreign terrorists to leave Syria" and help the U.S. stop any resurgence of the Islamic State group.

'Iran must end support for West Asia's proxy groups'

Associated Press
RIYADH

U.S. President Donald Trump told Gulf leaders on Wednesday he urgently wants "to make a deal" with Iran to wind down its nuclear programme but Tehran must end its support of proxy groups throughout the region as part of any potential agreement.

Iran "must stop sponsoring terror, halt its bloody proxy wars and permanently and verifiably cease pursuit of nuclear weapons," Mr. Trump said in remarks at a meeting of leaders from the Gulf Cooperation Council hosted by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in the Saudi capital. "They cannot have a nuclear weapon."

Colombia joins Belt and Road initiative as China courts Latin America to counter U.S.

Agence France-Presse
BEIJING

The BRI is a central pillar of President Xi Jinping's bid to expand China's economic and political clout overseas. FILE PHOTO

Colombia formally agreed on Wednesday to join China's vast Belt and Road infrastructure initiative, as Beijing draws Latin America closer in a bid to counter the United States.

Latin America has emerged as a key battleground in U.S. President Donald Trump's confrontations with China, and the region is coming under pressure from Washington to choose a side.

China has surpassed the U.S. as the biggest trading partner of Brazil, Peru, Chile and other Latin American nations, and two-thirds of countries there have signed up to Chinese leader Xi Jinping's Belt and Road infrastructure drive.

On the sidelines of a major gathering of regional leaders in Beijing on Wednesday, Colombia became the latest country to join the global initiative.

Colombia's Foreign Ministry hailed the agreement as a "historic step that opens up new opportunities for investment, technological cooperation, and sustainable development for both countries".

And after a meeting with Colombian President Gustavo Petro, Mr. Xi urged the countries to take the opportunity of Colombia formally joining the "Belt and Road Initiative family" to enhance their cooperation.

"From now on, Colombia will interact with the entire world on a footing of equality and freedom," Mr. Petro wrote.

Department of Agriculture
Government of Andhra Pradesh
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
Department of Agriculture, AP invites bids for selection of supplier of Bromadiolone 0.25%CB of 15323.53 Kgs under Rodent Control Programme through RSKs in East Godavari, Kakinada, Dr.B.R.Ambedkar Konaseema, West Godavari, Eluru, Krishna, NTR, Guntur, Bapatla, Palnadu, Nandyal, Tirupati and SPSR Nellore districts during 2025-26 under PM-RKVY scheme. For other details please visit www.apeprocurement.gov.in or www.apagrisnet.gov.in
Sd/- Sri. S.Dilli Rao
Director of Agriculture
DIPR 4111PP/CL, Dt: 14.05.2025

कार्यालय महाप्रबंधक राजस्थान राज्य वन विकास निगम लिमिटेड,
क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय जयपुर अरावली भवन,संस्थानिक क्षैत्र झालाना डूंगरी जयपुर–302004
क्रमांकःएफ3( )विकास/RSFDCLROJ/2025–26/593 दिनांकः 01.05.2025
खुली बोली नीलामी सूचना
महाप्रबंधक, राजस्थान राज्य वन विकास निगम लिमिटेड, जयपुर के क्षेत्राधीन प्रादेशिक वनमण्डल,जयपुर की रेंज फागी के वनखण्ड झाराना बीड के वृक्षारोपण क्षेत्र में मौजूद वनोपज प्रोसोपिस जूलीफ्लोरा (विलायती बबूल) को जड़ सहित उन्मूलन हेतु दिनांक 21.05.2025 को 1.00 बजे तक खुली बोली नीलामी की जानी है। नीलामी की अनुमानित कीमत 100 लाख रूपये है। खुली बोली नीलामी से संबंधित अन्य विस्तृत दस्तावेज एवं शर्तें राज्य लोक उपापन पोर्टल की बेवसाईट "sppp.raj.nic.in अथवा निगम की वेबसाईट http://forest.rajasthan.gov.in से देखे जा सकते है।
महाप्रबन्धक
राजस्थान राज्य वन विकास निगम, लिमिटेड क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, जयपुर
UBN-FOR2526WSOB00104
राज.संवाद/सी/25/2309

नगर निगम ग्रेटर जयपुर
(पण्डित दीनदयाल उपाध्याय भवन, लाल कोठी, टोंक रोड़, जयपुर–15)
क्रमांक :– जसअ/2025/60 दिनांकः 12.05.2025
–: : ई–निविदा सूचना संख्या 20 से 21 तक /2025–26 : :–
नगर निगम ग्रेटर जयपुर की ओर से विद्युत कार्य हेतु नगर निगम ग्रेटर जयपुर में व अन्य विभागों में नये नियमों के अनुसार श्रेणीवार EWSD श्रेणी में पंजीकृत संवेदकों से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई–टेन्डरिंग प्रक्रिया में ऑन लाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती हैं।
निविदा से सम्बन्धित समस्त विवरण वेब साईट http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in & http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in पर निम्न UBN No. JMC2526WSOB00542, JMC2526WSOB00543 पर देखा जा सकता हैं।
इच्छुक संवेदकों को ई–निविदा में भाग लेने हेतु वेबसाईट http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर रजिस्टर्ड करवाना आवश्यक हैं।
अधिशाषी अभियन्ता (विद्युत)
नगर निगम ग्रेटर जयपुर
राज.संवाद/सी/25/2263

The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking) Sankaramangalam, Kollam-691 583
Phone: 0476-2651215 to 2651217, e-mail: md@kmml.com, URL: www.kmml.com
TENDER NOTICE
For more details please visit E-Tendering Portal, https://etenders.kerala.gov.in or www.kmml.com

Sl No.	Tender ID	Items
1	2025_KMML_764124_1	For the supply of Roaster Discharge Grating Assembly
2	2025_KMML_764155_1	For the supply of Petals for Digester-36 M2
3	2025_KMML_764400_1	For the supply of FRP Absorber Head Tank
4	2025_KMML_764425_1	Iron Oxide shifting from elevated pond to designated area of old ponds

Chavara 14.05.2025 Sd/- Managing Director for The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd

INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDY IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
(An Autonomous Institute under Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India)
Paschim Boragaon, Garchuk, Guwahati-781035
Advt. No. 527 Date :15/05/2025
RECRUITMENT NOTICE
Applications are invited for recruitment of **Seven (7)** faculty positions at the IASST.
Interested candidates may visit IASST website **(www.iasst.gov.in)** for detailed information.
Registrar,
IASST

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF RAJASTHAN, KISHANGARH
Reaccredited to Grade A++ by NAAC
Category-I Status by UGC
Advt. No.CURAJ/R/F166/Rectt./2025/631 Date : 14.05.2025
07 Teaching Positions
Online applications are invited from eligible Indian Citizens in the prescribed format for **07 Teaching Positions** (direct recruitment basis) in the **Department of Biochemistry, Commerce, Data Science & Analytics, Mathematics and Linguistics** in the University.
For more details, visit: **www.curaj.ac.in**
Registrar

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE
Bangalore - 560012
IISc/CCMD/Tenders/2025-26 Date: 13.05.2025
Tender Notification- IISc/Tender-ELE-02/2025-26
Indian Institute of Science invites bids in two cover system through eprocurement platform **https://eprocure.gov.in**. Any specialized firms company registered under KPWD / CPWD/ railways/ MES/ central PSUs/ or any Government department of Class I/Class A Electrical Contractors are eligible to apply for the work of **"Lighting Protection system for Main Building at IISc"** Estimated Cost of Project is **Rs.17,95,055.88.** Last date of receipt of application is **02nd June 2025 at 15:30 Hrs.** Any other details can be obtained from the office of the Centre for Campus Management & Development, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore on all working days or e-mail **office.ccmd@iisc.ac.in**
Sd/-, Registrar

ಕನ್ನಡ ಬಳಸಿ, ಬೆಳೆಸಿ — ನಂದಿನಿ ಹಾಲನ್ನು ಉಪಯೋಗಿಸಿ
KOLAR DISTRICT CO-OPERATIVE MILK PRODUCER SOCIETIES' UNION LIMITED
Dairy Premises, NH - 75, Hutturu Post, Kolar - 563102
TECHNICAL AND COMMERCIAL TENDER
Name of the work:
Construction of new compound wall and in Golden dairy area and raising of existing compound at Kolar milk union, Kolar
Estimated cost:
6.10 Crore (Excluding GST)

IFT No.: Date:	KOMUL/CIVIL/00182/0573/2024-25 Date: 07.05.2025
Period for downloading of tender document	From: 07.05.2025 To: 09.06.2025
Last date for queries	22.05.2025 within 05:30 PM
Pre-bid meeting	28.05.2025 at 03:00 PM
Last date and time for receipt of tenders	09.06.2025 within 5:00 PM
Time and date of opening of cover one -Technical tender	11.06.2025, 11:30 AM
Time and date of opening of cover two -Commercial tender	Will be intimated to the qualified tenderers
Place of opening of tenders & address for communication	Kolar District Co-operative Milk Producer Societies' Union Limited, Dairy Premises, NH-75, Hutturu Post, Kolar – 563 102

Sd/-
The Managing Director
Kolar Milk Union Limited, Kolar

CRUSADER

Test cricket would have been 'far blander' without Kohli: Vaughan

FILE PHOTO

"Gutted, shocked and sad" at Virat Kohli's sudden retirement from the longest format, Michael Vaughan said no individual has done more for Test cricket than the star Indian batter. "Test cricket would have been a far blander place without him, and there is a chance it would have lost its appeal if he had not been as interested in it."

BIG BOOST

Boult likely to rejoin MI for the remainder of IPL 2025

EMMANUAL YOGINI

Mumbai Indians left-arm pacer Trent Boult is likely to rejoin the squad for the remaining matches of the IPL 2025, according to *ESPNcricinfo*. Boult has played a key role for the five-time champions this season. He is currently Mumbai Indians' top wicket-taker with 18 scalps from 12 matches.

IN CONTENTION

de Kock set to be back for defending champion KKR

B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Quinton de Kock is set to rejoin the KKR squad in Bengaluru on Thursday ahead of IPL's resumption on May 17. There was uncertainty over his involvement in the remainder of tournament until Tuesday, but he has confirmed his availability. Most foreigners, including Spencer Johnson, have confirmed their availability.

CHERISHED MEETING

Sinner has an audience with newly-elected Pope Leo XIV

AFP

Italian Jannik Sinner had an audience on Wednesday with Pope Leo XIV, himself a keen tennis player. The World No. 1 presented the Pope with one of his racquets, but the pontiff declined a suggestion that they knock a ball around, staring up at the antiques in the reception room. "Better not," he said, to laughter.

IPL allows temporary overseas replacements for the last phase

Those signed after the league's suspension will not be eligible for retention ahead of the next season; the move by the authorities is to ensure that no team is severely impacted due to the absence of foreign players

CRICKET

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

The Indian Premier League (IPL) has modified its rules to allow temporary overseas replacements for the remainder of the 2025 edition, set to be played from May 17 to June 3. The change has been necessitated due to the tournament's week-long suspension after cross-border tensions between India and Pakistan.

"Given the non-availability of certain foreign players due to national commitments or personal reasons or any injury or illness, temporary replacement players will be allowed until the conclusion of this tournament," stated a communication shared by the IPL authorities with all the franchises ahead of the tournament's resumption.

"This decision is subject to the condition that the temporary replacement players taken from this point forward will not be eligible for retention in the following year. Temporary replacement players will have to register for the IPL Player Auction 2026."

Changed rules: Fraser-McGurk has been replaced by Delhi Capitals for the remainder of IPL 2025 but will be eligible to be retained for next season. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

It means that Bangladesh seamer Mustafizur Rahman - who was formally announced as a replacement for Jake Fraser-McGurk for Delhi Capitals on Tuesday - will not be eligible to be retained for the next season, but Fraser-McGurk will be.

According to the rulebook distributed ahead of the season, no team was allowed to sign a temporary player once it started its 12th league match. But due to the unprecedented scenario of a sudden, week-long suspension of the tournament, the IPL authorities have amended the rules.

Ever since the IPL was suspended on May 9, a day after the Punjab Kings' home game against Delhi Capitals in Dharamshala had to be called off and the stadium evacuated as a result, a majority of the overseas players have returned home.

While a majority are coming back, some of the players who will be in action in the World Test Championship final will not return along with those whose families are averse to them returning to India. To ensure no team is severely impacted due to the absence of overseas players, the IPL authorities have extended the temporary replacement window for the business end of the tournament.

CSK to have the services of most foreign players for last two matches

Game on: While Overton will be unavailable, CSK is awaiting news regarding Ravindra for the last two fixtures. VIJAY SONEJI, K.MURALI KUMAR

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

Chennai Super Kings will have the services of most of its overseas players for its final two IPL league matches.

As of now, only Jamie Overton is unavailable, considering he has been picked in England's white-ball squad for the ODIs and T20Is against West Indies starting on May 29.

Sam Curran, Dewald Brevis, Noor Ahmad, Matheesha Pathirana, and Devon Conway are expected to return to India, while the team hopes to get clarity on Rachin Ravindra's availability by Thursday.

It is also understood that while head coach Stephen Fleming will be here, batting coach Michael Hussey and bowling consultant Eric Simons are not expected to travel.

The five-time champion has had a miserable year and was the first team to be eliminated in the fight for a playoffs berth.

With just three wins, CSK is lying last on the points table.

CSK's remaining fixtures are an inconsequential tie against ninth-placed Rajasthan Royals (also eliminated) in Delhi on May 20 and the last game against Gujarat Titans in Ahmedabad on May 25. The team is likely to reassemble in Delhi by May 18.

CSK won its previous outing against Kolkata Knight Riders in Eden Gardens - the last completed match before the league was paused due to border tensions between India and Pakistan.

The Super Kings have been giving youngsters in the squad chances once it became clear they wouldn't qualify for the last four, and they will look to continue it in the remaining games as they attempt to build a strong unit for next season.

WTC Final-bound SA players likely to miss IPL playoffs

Press Trust of India
JOHANNESBURG

South African players who have been picked for the World Test Championship Final against Australia are likely to miss IPL playoffs as the country's cricket board is standing firm on prioritising national duty over league commitments.

The BCCI confirmed on Monday that the IPL will resume on May 17 with the final slated for June 3. The revised schedule has left players from WTC finalists Australia and South Africa in a tight spot. The franchises and the BCCI have urged foreign boards to make their players available for the remainder of the tournament.

CSA, however, has reiterated its commitment to WTC Final preparations.

"It is an individual decision, obviously, to return or to play or continue," CSA's director of national teams and high performance Enoch Nkwe said.

"One thing we've made clear, and we are finalising this with the IPL and the BCCI, is sticking to our original plan when it comes to the WTC preparations. May 26 is the latest for the Test guys to come back. The original plans don't change because the No. 1 priority is the WTC final."

Praggnanandhaa draws with Firouzja, remains in joint lead

Top stuff: Praggnanandhaa and Firouzja split the point in round seven. X@GRANDCHESSTOUR

Press Trust of India
BUCHAREST

Grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa kept his joint lead intact drawing with fellow co-leader Alireza Firouzja of France in the seventh round of the Superbet Classic, a part of the Grand Chess Tour, on Thursday.

With four points out of a possible seven in his bag, Praggnanandhaa shares the lead with Fabiano Caruana, Maxime Vachier-Lagrave and Firouzja.

World champion D. Gukesh's hunt for an elusive victory in the event will have to wait another day as he drew with Wesley So without causing any real trouble to the American.

Meanwhile, WGM Srija Seshadri lost to Mongolia's Mungunzul Bat-Erdene in the eighth round of the Asian Individual chess championships in Al Ain (UAE) to slip to joint second with six points, along with four others including Vantika Agrawal.

In the Open section, GM Nihal Sarin registered his third straight victory but remained a full point behind Iran's Bardiya Daneshvar.

Superbet Classic, seventh round results

Praggnanandhaa (4) drew with Firouzja (4); Aronian (3.5) drew with Caruana (4); Bogdan Daniel (3.5) drew with Vachier-Lagrave (4); Abdusattorov (3.5) bt Jan Krzysztof Duda (2.5); So (3.5) drew with Gukesh (2.5).

Gauff sees off Andreeva, Alcaraz cruises into last-four

ITALIAN OPEN

Agence France-Presse
ROME

Carlos Alcaraz strode into the semifinals of the Italian Open on Wednesday after putting in a powerful display to down Jack Draper in straight sets, 6-4, 6-4.

His impressive win over Draper kept alive his chances of a third title of the season and also moved him up to No. 2 in the world rankings behind Jannik Sinner.

The Spaniard also bagged a top-two seeding at the French Open which begins later this month, but in the meantime the four-time Grand Slam winner continues his bid for a first Rome crown.

"The most important thing that I did today was not thinking about the result at all," said Alcaraz.

"Not thinking about if I was up, if I was down. Just trying to do the things that make me happy on court."

Casper Ruud's attempt at a Madrid and Rome double has a Sinner-shaped obstacle in its way after the World No. 7 won his postponed match with Jaume Munar 6-3, 6-4.

Earlier, Coco Gauff marched into the women's semis by beating Mirra Andreeva in straight sets, 6-4, 7-6(5).

Powering through: Gauff proved too much for Andreeva as she got one step closer to a first title of the season. REUTERS

American Gauff has guaranteed herself No. 2 in the women's world rankings with her solid displays in Rome, where she saw off seventh seed Andreeva on centre court.

Gauff, 21, is looking for her first title of the season ahead of Roland Garros, after losing the Madrid final to Sabalenka.

The results:

Men: **Quarterfinals**: Alcaraz bt Draper 6-4, 6-4.

Fourth round: Ruud bt Munar 6-3, 6-4. Zverev bt Fils 7-6(3), 6-1; Sinner bt Cerundolo 7-6(2), 6-3; Paul bt de Minaur 7-5, 6-3.

Women: **Quarterfinals**: Gauff bt Andreeva 6-4, 7-6(5); Stearns bt Svitolina 6-2, 4-6, 7-6(4).

India has the talent to step in for Kohli and Rohit, says Anderson

Press Trust of India
LONDON

England pace great James Anderson feels India's next generation of batters have the aggression and fearlessness to step into the "big shoes" of Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma in the Test team.

"Great players. Kohli, one of the greatest Test batters that's ever been," Anderson said.

The twin retirements mean India will not only have a new captain at the helm but will be without two of their most experienced players.

Anderson. FILE PHOTO

"There will be a new captain because Rohit has retired, There's big shoes to fill there but they've got a huge amount of talent in their squad," Anderson added.

Anderson praised the new crop of Indian batters for their attacking mindset.

"You just have to watch the IPL. They are bringing players into Test cricket from the IPL now who are just so attacking, aggressive, and fearless," he said.

England will host India for a five-match Test series starting June 20, which is also the beginning of the 2025-2027 WTC cycle.

INBRIEF

Neeraj made a honorary Lieutenant Colonel in TA

Two-time Olympic medallist and World javelin champion Neeraj Chopra has been conferred honorary rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Territorial Army. The appointment, according to the Gazette of India, came into effect on April 16. Neeraj joins World Cup-winning cricket captains Kapil Dev and M.S. Dhoni and fellow Olympic gold medallist Abhinav Bindra, who have also been conferred with the same rank.

India meets Kazakhstan in the quarterfinals

Australia beat India 3-0 to top the group in the Asia-Oceania Junior Billie Jean King Cup under-16 girls' tennis tournament in Shymkent, Kazakhstan, on Wednesday. The Indian girls will take on host Kazakhstan which topped its group by beating the second seed China 2-1.

The results (league): Australia bt India 3-0 [Koharu Nishikawa bt Parthsarthi Mundhe 6-4, 6-2; Renee Alame bt Aahan 6-0, 6-2; Koharu & Jizelle Sibai bt Parthsarthi & Anandita Upadhyay 7-6(2), 6-4].

Stuani strike takes Girona past Real Valladolid

Cristian Stuani's 80th minuted strike helped Girona beat the already relegated Real Valladolid 1-0 in the La Liga on Tuesday.

The results: Real Valladolid 0 lost to Girona 1 (Stuani 80); Real Sociedad 0 lost to Celta Vigo 1 (Alfon 44); Sevilla 1 (Pascual 52) bt Las Palmas 0.

India wins big against Nepal in SAFF under-19 football

India sealed its spot at the top of Group B of the SAFF under-19 football championship with a 4-0 victory over Nepal at Yupia (Arunachal Pradesh) on Tuesday. Rohen Singh Chaphamayum (28th and 76th minutes), Omang Dodum (29th) and Danny Meitei (84th) found the target for the home team.

LIVE TELECAST

Tennis: Italian Open, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 4.30 & 10.30 p.m.

LaLiga: FanCode, 10.30 p.m. & 1 a.m. (Friday)

Malvika, Aakarshi and Unnati advance

Tressa -Gayatri move up in women's doubles; Lakshya, Priyanshu, Rakshitha along with three more Indian pairs exit in first round of Thailand Open

BADMINTON

Press Trust of India
BANGKOK

Malvika Bansod, Aakarshi Kashyap, and Unnati Hooda advanced to the women's singles second round after hard-fought victories, even as Lakshya Sen crashed out in the opening round, in the $475,000 Thailand Open Super 500 badminton tournament here on Wednesday.

World No. 23 Malvika ousted Turkey's Neslihan Arin 21-12, 13-21, 21-17 to set up a clash with former World champion Ratchanok Intanon, seeded seventh. Intanon ousted Anupama Upadhyaya.

Gritty: Malvika overcame the challenge of Arin in three hard-fought games. FILE PHOTO

Aakarshi survived a thrilling contest against Japan's Kaoru Sugiyama, winning 21-16, 20-22, 22-20, while the 17-year-old Unnati registered a gritty 21-14, 18-21, 23-21 victory over Thailand's Thamonwan Nithiittikrai.

However, it was the end of the road for Rakshitha Sree Santhosh Ramraj, who lost her opener 18-21, 7-21 to eighth seed Yeo Jia Min of Singapore.

Unnati will next face top seed Thai Pornpawee Chochuwong, while Aakarshi meets fourth seeded Supanida Katethong, also from Thailand.

Tense encounter

In men's singles, Lakshya fell to Ireland's Nhat Nguyen in a tense three-game battle, losing 18-21, 21-9, 17-21 in a match that lasted 80 minutes.

Priyanshu Rajawat too made a first-round exit as he went down 13-21, 21-17, 16-21 against Alwi Farhan of Indonesia.

In women's doubles, the World No. 10 pair of Tressa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand reached the second round with a 21-15, 21-13 win over Malaysia's Xin Yee Ong and Carmen Ting.

However, the combinations of Kavipriya Selvam-Simran Singhi, P. Krishnamurthy Roy-K. Sai Pratheek, and Rashmi Ganesh-Sania Sikandar lost in the opening round.

The results (first round): Men: Nhat Nguyen (Irl) bt Lakshya Sen 21-18, 9-21, 21-17; Alwi Farhan (Ina) bt Priyanshu Rajawat 21-13, 17-21, 21-16.
Doubles: Junaidi Arif & Roy King Yap (Mas) bt Pruthvi Krishnamurthy Roy & K. Sai Pratheek 22-20, 17-21, 21-18.
Women: Aakarshi Kashyap bt Kaoru Sugiyama (Jpn) 21-16, 20-22, 22-20; Unnati Hooda bt Thamonwan Nithiittikrai 21-14, 18-21, 23-21; Yeo Jia Min (Sgp) bt Rakshitha Sree Santhosh Ramraj 21-18, 21-7; Malvika Bansod bt Neslihan Arin (Tur) 21-12, 13-21, 21-17; Ratchanok Intanon (Tha) bt Anupama Upadhyaya 21-11, 21-19.
Doubles: Benyapa Aimsaard & Nuntakarn Aimsaard (Tha) bt Kavipriya Selvam & Simran Singhi 21-17, 21-17; Pearly Tan & Thinaah Muralitharan (Mas) bt Rashmi Ganesh & Sania Sikandar 21-11, 21-5; Treesa Jolly & Gayatri Gopichand bt Xin Yee Ong & Carmen Tin (Mas) 21-15, 21-13.

East Bengal signs Lalrindika, Bipin

Lalrindika.

Bipin.

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

East Bengal has completed the signing of striker Edmund Lalrindika and winger Bipin Singh Thounaojam on multi-year contracts, ahead of the 2025-26 season.

Edmund, 26, played 24 times for Inter Kashi last season, scoring four goals and assisting six more as the side reached the Super Cup quarterfinals.

The forward was looking to move to the top division after his club controversially finished second in I-League - second division - last season and attracted interest from Kerala Blasters and East Bengal.

However, *The Hindu* can confirm that the Red-and-Gold Brigade that finally won the race, with the striker penning a three-year contract with them.

It will be his return to the Kolkata-based outfit, with him previously playing twice for it in the I-League, on loan from Bengaluru FC, in which he assisted once against Mohun Bagan in a 1-2 loss in the 2019-20 season.

Edmund is set to join the national camp as Irfan Yadwad's replacement starting May 18, and has completed the paperwork with his new club. At East Bengal, he is expected to be one of the attacking options after Cleiton Silva left the club, and there has been no paperwork done regarding the transfer of Brazilian Robson Robinho.

Meanwhile, Bipin has joined East Bengal on a free transfer from Mumbai City FC. The 30-year-old spent seven seasons with the Islanders, winning two Indian Super League Cups and Shields each with the Islanders and contributing 44 goals (26 G, 16A).

Pakistan doubtful for Asia Cup hockey

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The national federation is awaiting a government advisory but Pakistan's participation in this year's Hero Asia Cup hockey tournament in India is in serious doubt because of the prevalent tension between the two countries after the Pahalgam terror attack.

The Asia Cup will be staged in Rajgir, Bihar from August 27 to September 7. Host India, Pakistan, Japan, Korea, China, Malaysia, Oman and Chinese Taipei are scheduled to participate in the 12th edition of the continental showpiece, a qualifying tournament for next year's World Cup to be held in Netherlands and Belgium.

"It is too early to say anything but we will follow the government's directive on this issue, which has been the case in the past," HI secretary general Bholanath Singh told PTI.

"There is still close to three months for the tournament but we will abide by what our government suggests us. There are no two ways about it."

Masters of the assist: top chance creators in ISL 24-25

FOOTBALL

ANI
NEW DELHI

In football, goal scorers often grab all the attention, but the playmakers who set up those goals are just as important.

These players use their skill, vision, and creativity to build attacking moves and help their teams score, even if they don't always get the credit they deserve.

The architects behind the goals hold the key to unlock the opponent's defence line and feed their teammates with weighted goal-bound passes.

The Indian Super League (ISL) 2024-25 season also witnessed many creative hubs and adroit playmakers creating golden opportunities throughout the campaign in an artistic way, becoming a constant menace for the opposition.

Leading the charts

Connor Shields created 76 chances in the 2024-25 season, the highest such tally in a single campaign in the league. Moreover, he recorded eight assists from those 76 chances, the most by any player this term.

Weaving their magic: Chennaiyin's Shields, jersey No. 10, created 76 chances for the just concluded season. R. RAGU

Adrian Luna ranks second in this tally, having created 55 chances throughout the season. The Blasters' captain anchored the centre of the pitch and controlled the game with his unique passing range and sheer composure in tense moments. Luna also racked up six assists to his name, averaged 38 passes per game, and maintained an 80% passing accuracy.

Alaaeddine Ajaraie enjoyed a stellar debut campaign, showcasing his all-around abilities in the final third. Besides making 30-goal contributions, Ajaraie also created 52 chances, leading the charge for the Highlanders. He also logged 47 shots on target.

Hugo Boumous is next on the list with 47 chances created for Odisha FC, playing a dynamic role in their attacking lineup. He also picked up seven assists.

Indian in the list

Buanthanglun Samte is the only Indian to feature in this list with 43 chances created.

The young full-back was sensational in the 2024-25 season with his dazzling overlapping runs through the flanks and deliveries into the final third. Samte averaged 23 passes per game, completed 19 interceptions, won 26 tackles and 68 duels, and also recorded three assists to his name.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Gopalan Sports CBT gets the better of Six CA

Gopalan Sports CBT defeated Six Cricket Academy by 43 runs in the Tiger Cup under-12 tournament here.

The scores:

CBT 183 in 30 overs (Vihaan Sharma 38, Sanshray Mohit 39, Vishnu Satvik 30, Arnav Mandanna 3/24) bt Six Cricket Academy 140 in 23.4 overs (Arvit 43, Ram Punj 4/9).

BootCamp 37 in 14.1 overs (Rithan Hari Sai 5/3) lost to Just Cricket Academy 38/2 in 7.1 overs.

Panthers Cricket Academy 152/6 in 30 overs (Mohammed Ziyan 68, Vikram Joshi 3/23) lost to RKO3 153/4 in 27.5 overs (Kshitij 37, Aadit Tripathi 29).

Dhanush nets Income Tax FC's winner; Shree Renuka FC triumphs

Income Tax FC defeated AGORA FC 1-0 in the BDFA 'A' division men's football league here on Wednesday.

In the KSFA 'B' division women's final, Shree Renuka FC edged out Pass FC 3-2 to emerge as champion.

The results:

Champion: An elated DELL Cricket Club squad. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Men: BDFA 'A' division: Income Tax FC 1 (V. Dhanush 19) bt AGORC FC 0; BTM FC 2 (Nakshatra Jain 80, Aayush David Koshy 84) bt Roots FS (KSFA) 0.

BDFA 'C' division: Konkan FC bt Bangalore Youngsters FC 9-1.

KSFA 'C' division: Blue Diamond bt Football Aura Academy 2-0; Bangalore Champs Academy bt Young Blues Elite 4-0; MRU FC drew with RV FC 1-1.

Women: KSFA 'B' division: Final: Shree Renuka FC 3 (Sneha 40, 45, S. Rina Devi 44) bt Pass FC 2 (Deepa Ramachandran 20, K. Saumya 48).

Ruchitaksh scores a ton

Ruchitaksh Indrekar (128) took Visweswarapuram Cricket Club (2) past Mathikere Cricket Club in the KSCA under-16 inter-club tournament here.

The scores:

Visweswarapuram Cricket Club (2) 365/4 in 50 overs (Sourab Chittakki 26, Roshan Raj Shinde 62, Shivom Yogesh Mehare 29, Ruchitaksh Indrekar 128, Aayat Rahim Khan 66 n.o.) bt Mathikere Cricket Club 83 in 22.3 overs (Shreyas Shetty 31, V. Chayaank Kumar 3/19, Rakshan Raj Shinde 3/11).

The Bangalore Cricketers 98 in 39 overs (Vikram 4/24) lost to Bangalore Sports Club 101/2 in 17.2 overs (Hyderali Sayyed 33, Ekansh Roul 30 n.o.).

National United Cricket Club 271/9 in 50 overs (P.M. Vismai 90, H.K. Rudresh Gowda 70, Nakka Manvesh Vasu 3/60) bt Wilson Garden Cricket Club 182/9 in 50 overs (K. Rehan 34, V. Vedanth Kumar 31, Reyes Raj Madhusudhan 25, Samhith Dixit 4/32).

Visweswarapuram Cricket Club (1) 265 in 47.2 overs (Akshaj Kathuria 85, Tonse Shiek 34, Gagan 73, Shaun Cornelio 25 n.o., Vishal Dongare 4/44, K.S. Rohith 3/41) bt Cavaliers Cricket Club 78 in 26.1 overs (A. Aahan 26, Rithvik Kulasekar 4/8).

Friends Union Cricket Club (1) 306/7 in 50 overs (Thushar Khande 47, Aaryansinh Chavda 49, S.N. Avaneesha 27, Aditya Jha 108, Ansh Kumar 42) bt Jawahar Sports Club (1) 91 in 27.5 overs (Siddhanth Vasu 3/17, Harshvardhan Shahi 4/19).

Chintamani Sports Association 79 in 23.5 overs (Harshith Raja 27, Om Agarwalla 5/17, Paarth Madan 3/24) lost to Vijaya Cricket Club 83/2 in 12 overs (P. Rithesh 38 n.o.).

Yankees Cricket Club 229 in 46.5 overs (Shaurya Yadav 103, Aarav Kapoor 33, S.L. Aarush 4/20) bt Whirlwind Cricketers 136 in 45.4 overs (Anurag Kulkarni 31, A. Pranav Adithya 25, Avaneesh 3/24).

Young Pioneer Cricket Club 111/7 in 23 overs (H.R. Yashas 53, Reddy Alamuru 3/23) lost to Engrades Cricket Club 112/3 in 19.4 overs (D. Sanju Kumar 51).

Friends Union Cricketers 182/7 in 50 overs (Shamanth Raju 28, Ruhaan Shaikh 33, Nikith Girish 28) bt Jawans Cricket Club 102 in 33.4 overs (Davin Glenn Mascarenhas 28, Nikith Girish 4/22, Rohan Gowda 3/20).

Triumphant: The Shree Renuka FC team with its winnings. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

DELL CC takes the honours

DELL Cricket Club defeated KPTCL Sports Organisation in the final to claim the KSCA Group II, Division II title.

The scores: DELL Cricket Club 173/7 in 20 overs (Vikas Chanalia 31, Vikas Doddamani 37, Dhanu 28, B.S. Narayanaswamy 3/31) bt KPTCL Sports Organisation 153/7 in 20 overs (S. Rajashekar 45, Dhanu 3/23).

Sriram Balaji and Reyes-Varela advance

TENNIS

Sports Bureau

Sriram Balaji and Miguel Reyes-Varela of Mexico recovered from the brink to beat Robert Cash and J.J. Tracy of USA 6-7(7), 7-6(7), [10-6] in the doubles pre-quarterfinals of the $227,270 Challenger tennis tournament on clay in Bordeaux, France, on Wednesday.

Other results: €142,250 Challenger, Oeiras, Portugal: Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Erik Grevelius & Adam Heinonen (Swe) bt Niki Poonacha & Marcelo Zormann (Bra) 3-6, 7-6(1), [10-8].
$100,000 Challenger, Tunis: Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Siddhant Banthia & Alexander Donski (Bul) bt Omar Knani & Alaa Trifi (Tun) 6-1, 6-2; Robin Bertrand (Fra) & Adil Kalyanpur bt Alexandru Jecan & Bogdan Pavel (Rou) 3-6, 6-3, [11-9].
$30,000 ITF men, Reggio Emilia, Italy: First round: Manas Dhamne bt Alexander Weis (Ita) 3-2 (retired).
Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Federico Iannaccone (Ita) & Georgii Kravchenko (Ukr) bt Manas Dhamne & Gabriel Gomez (Fra) 6-2, 7-5.
$30,000 ITF men, Bucharest: First round: Stefan Palosi (Rou) bt Chirag Duhan 6-4, 6-2.
$15,000 ITF men, Tehran: First round: Karan Singh bt Luka Todorovic (Srb) 6-2, 6-3; Artur Kukasian bt Nitin Kumar Sinha 7-5, 6-4; Saveliy Ivanov bt Atharva Sharma 7-6(6), 6-2; Ali Yazdani (IRI) bt Prasad Ingale 6-1, 6-2; Prajwal Dev bt Dmitrii Shirokii 6-3, 6-2; Maan Kesharwani bt Filippo Alberti (Ita) 6-3, 3-6, 6-3; Dev Javia bt Parsa Ashjari (Iri) 6-1, 6-4.
$60,000 ITF women, Trnava, Slovakia: Doubles: Quarterfinals: Arianne Hartono (Ned) & Prarthana Thombare bt Dominika Pirohova & Katarina Stresnakova (Svk) 6-1, 6-2.
Pre-quarterfinals: Arianne & Prarthana bt Mila Masic (Srb) & Rinko Matsuda (Jpn) 6-3, 1-6, [11-9].
$15,000 ITF women, Monzon, Spain: Pre-quarterfinals: Alba Garcia (Esp) bt Madhurima Sawant 6-3, 6-2.
Doubles: Quarterfinals: Maria Vaquero & Alba bt Mahdurima Sawant & Ella Simmons (Aus) 6-2, 6-2.